

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name _____ Yew Hill; Robert Ashby's Tavern; Shacklett's Tavern _____

other names/site number _____ DHR File Numbers _030-5369-0127; 030-0060 _____

2. Location

street & number _____ 10030 John Marshall Highway _____ not for publication _____ N/A _____

city of town _____ Delaplane _____ vicinity _____ X _____

state _____ Virginia _____ code _VA_ county _ Fauquier _ code _061 Zip _20114_

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this
X nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties
in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part
60. In my opinion the property _X_ meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this
property be considered significant _____ nationally _____ statewide _X_ locally. (____ See continuation sheet for additional
comments.)

Signature of certifying official

Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _X_ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (____ See continuation sheet for
additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

____ entered in the National Register

____ See continuation sheet.

____ determined eligible for the

National Register

____ See continuation sheet.

____ determined not eligible for the National Register

____ removed from the National Register

____ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

Yew Hill
Fauquier County, Virginia

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- ```

X private
__ public-local
___ public-State
___ public-Federal

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- \_X\_ building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

| Contributing | Noncontributing     |
|--------------|---------------------|
| <u>4</u>     | <u>3</u> buildings  |
| <u>1</u>     | <u>0</u> sites      |
| <u>0</u>     | <u>1</u> structures |
| <u>0</u>     | <u>0</u> objects    |
| 5            | 4 Total             |

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple listing. N/A

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC  
DOMESTIC  
DOMESTIC  
DOMESTIC  
COMMERCE/TRADE  
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTANCE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Sub: Single Dwelling  
Secondary Structure –Summer Kitchen  
Secondary Structure – Meat House  
Secondary Structure - Dairy  
Restaurant - Tavern  
Agricultural Outbuilding  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Cat: DOMESTIC  
DOMESTIC  
DOMESTIC  
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTANCE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Sub: Single Dwelling  
Secondary Structure – Meat House - storage  
Secondary Structure - Dairy - vacant  
Agricultural Outbuilding  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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**7. Description**

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**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL \_\_\_\_\_  
Other: Vernacular Double-pile \_\_\_\_\_

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation \_\_\_\_\_ STONE – Sandstone, Limestone \_\_\_\_\_  
roof \_\_\_\_\_ ASPHALT SHINGLE  
walls \_\_\_\_\_ FRAME WOOD – Weatherboard \_\_\_\_\_  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
chimneys \_\_\_\_\_ STONE – Sandstone; Limestone \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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**Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark “X” in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register Listing.)

- ☒ X A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ X C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations** (Mark “X” in all boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

(Rev. 10-90)

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**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions.)☐ Architecture☐ Commerce☐ Transportation**Period of Significance** ☐ 1760-1879**Significant Dates** ☐ 1760☐ 1808☐ 1879**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)☐ N/A**Cultural Affiliation** ☐ N/A**Architect/Builder** ☐ Unknown**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS)**☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.☐ previously listed in the National Register☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register☐ designated a National Historic Landmark☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #**Primary Location of Additional Data**☒ State Historic Preservation Office☐ Other State agency☐ Federal agency☐ Local government☐ University☒ Other See Bibliography

Name of repository:

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**10. Geographical Data**Acreage of Property ☐ 98 Acres**UTM References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

| Zone   | Easting | Northing | Zone   | Easting | Northing |
|--------|---------|----------|--------|---------|----------|
| 1 - 18 | 245510  | 4309700  | 2 - 18 | 246380  | 4310120  |
| 3 - 18 | 246480  | 4310260  | 4 - 18 | 246650  | 4310380  |

☒ See Continuation sheet.

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**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title \_\_\_ Cheryl H. Shepherd, Architectural Historian \_\_\_\_\_

organization \_\_\_ Millennium Preservation Services LLC \_\_\_\_\_ date 20 August 2004 \_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_ P. O. Box 312 \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_ 540-349-0118 \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_ Warrenton \_\_\_\_\_ state Virginia \_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_ 20188-0312 \_\_\_\_\_

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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**Property Owner**

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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_\_ Mr. & Mrs. Allen J. Richards \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_ 10030 John Marshall Highway \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_ 540-364-1541 \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_ Delaplane \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_ Virginia \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_ 20114 \_\_\_\_\_

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington DC 20503.

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**7. Summary Description**

The 98-acre Yew Hill property lies approximately twenty-two miles northwest of the county seat in Warrenton and one-half mile south of Delaplane in the Crooked Run Valley Rural Historic District (030-5369). The Delaplane exit from Interstate 66 is about a quarter of a mile south. Standing prominently on the property's highest hill at the northwest corner of the junction of the Shenandoah-Winchester Road (Route 17) and the John Marshall Highway (Route 55), Robert Ashby's distinctly colonial frame dwelling has long been recognized as an important landmark. The former tavern faces east toward the older primary travel way but is approached on the south from the John Marshall Highway near the earlier location of the Shenandoah-Winchester Road. This major colonial thoroughfare was moved about forty feet east in front of Yew Hill in the 1960s.<sup>i</sup> The gravel driveway follows part of the early roadbed a distance where it turns west up a steep hill by the stone springhouse ruin, arriving at the southeast corner of the circa 1960 frame garage on the south-left and concluding beside the circa 1760-1817 stone meat house and dairy on the east-right. The first summer kitchen formerly stood in the gravel parking area just south of the dwelling and beside the meat house.<sup>ii</sup> A circa 1940, board-and-batten, frame secondary dwelling is across the parking lot to the southwest. The late-eighteenth-century, timber-framed, threshing barn stands out in the south barnyard. A circa 1960, frame horse barn with a gambrel roof is opposite to the southeast.

Remnants of a central stone walkway lead from the main entrance of the dwelling out to the front east dooryard which steps down to the colonial roadbed as shown in Porte Crayon's 1853 drawing of the house of private entertainment.<sup>iii</sup> Aged black walnut, maple and locust trees shadow the front stone wall along Winchester Road. Framed in weeping willows, a circa 1980 pond now spans the colonial road trace to the northeast of the house. A spring runs north through the springhouse ruin into the pond and beyond into Goose Creek at Delaplane. Another branch also courses through the west field. The rear door yard slopes west where a board fence prohibits livestock entry from the outer pastures. Thoroughbred horses and cattle, along with an occasional roaming black bear, currently graze on these agricultural fields which are enclosed by a dry-stacked stone wall along the wooded western perimeter and horizontal board fencing on the south and north sides. A finely-chiseled "The BNG" corner stone that must be the beginning point of the 1806 survey when Enoch Ashby deeded the 121-½ acres to his son Alexander remains inside the west stone wall.<sup>iv</sup> There are four contributing buildings including the colonial dwelling, the stone meat house, stone dairy and the late-eighteenth-century barn. The stone springhouse ruin is a contributing site. Constructed after the period of significance, the board-and-batten tenant house, garage and horse barn are considered non-contributing buildings. The concrete stave silo behind the barn is a non-contributing structure.

**Dwelling House (Robert Ashby's Tavern and Shacklett's Tavern), contributing building, 1760-61:** Built between 1760 and 1761 for Robert Ashby, who received an ordinary license that year, his nearly-square, one-and-one-half-story, three-bay-wide, frame dwelling stands on a stone foundation and has a steeply-pitched, asphalt-shingled gable roof and two exterior-end stone chimneys.<sup>v</sup> The roof was originally wood shingled. The north chimney sets out from the gable, typical for the building's late-eighteenth-century date of construction, while the south chimney is a reconstructed element. On this east front roof slope, there are two, possibly original, gabled dormers that now contain four-over-four, double-hung-sash, aluminum replacement windows.<sup>vi</sup> There are two cellar windows with treenailed hewn framing and hewn vertical bars across the openings, as commonly seen in the foundations of eighteenth-century buildings. The slightly weathered, eight-and-one-half-inch fascia board is pit-sawn and has a half-inch bead. The fascia and hand-planed cornice molding have no residue of lime wash or paint. The one-story, three-bay-wide front porch with chamfered square posts supporting the asphalt-shingled roof extension is a circa 1808 improvement. Presently, a one-story, one-bay-wide, two-bay-deep, enclosed porch wing with an asphalt-shingled shed roof sets back of the east front porch on the south side. This circa 1920 enclosure expanded a circa 1808 three-sided shelter around the apparently original service entrance at the south-southeast corner of the house. This service entrance is across from the non-surviving first summer kitchen that stood about fifteen feet to the south beside the dairy and meat house.

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Water mill-sawn, shiplapped, cut nailed and not original, the seven-and-one-half-inch-wide weatherboard with a four-eighths-of-an-inch bead was recently removed from the façade for analysis of the framing. The fenestration, composed of a centered door flanked on the north by a fine hand-planed, nine-over-nine, single-hung-sash window and an unusual second entrance on the south, is suspiciously uncommon to a colonial house in the Piedmont or Tidewater. As expected, the south door framing is not original and dates to the late nineteenth century. Its insertion caused the removal of the lower half of the heavy, pit-sawn oak downbrace and the bottom left corner of the south window architrave. This period-one window architrave remains in place, but the outside molding was planed flat to receive weatherboard, and the single-hung sash was removed. The exposed infill lathing for interior plaster finish inside the window is circular-sawn pine fastened with cut nails, further indication of a circa 1870 change, while the period-one split oak lath is attached with wrought nails. The second front entrance architecturally dates later than the non-extant porch chamber shown in Porte Crayon's 1853 attached drawing of Shacklett's house of private entertainment, meaning that this room's first access must have been from the south or north sides of the porch which was more traditional.<sup>vii</sup> Therefore, the necessity for the installation of the second front door out into this porch chamber in the late nineteenth century and before a circa 1898 photograph, by which time the room has been removed and the door is shown in place, remains an unsolved mystery.<sup>viii</sup>

Twentieth-century weatherboard covers and/or replaces the original on the south side elevation. Several period-one boards can be seen above the cellar entrance in the southwest corner of the main block and behind the off-center and narrowed, circa 1808, stone chimney. There is a relocated window, now containing a modern nine-over-nine, aluminum, double-hung-sash, to the west-left of the chimney, and two narrow, four-over-four, aluminum, double-hung-sash windows are in the gable on the original block. The one-story, two-bay-wide, enclosed south porch has four-over-four aluminum windows. A four-bay-wide gable-fronting wing on a stone foundation with a near-center stone interior chimney is awkwardly joined to the rear southwest corner of the main block. This wing was originally detached and two bays deep with a door on the north side for more convenient access to the house when the center portion was built in circa 1840 as a second "near" summer kitchen.<sup>ix</sup> Connected by a lean-to canopy to a one-story, shed-roofed, west-rear addition built around 1920 as a shallow extension of the enclosed back porch, this wing received a one-bay bathroom enlargement to the east front and north side toward the house in the 1970s.<sup>x</sup> The northeast corner of the front gable was cut, and the asphalt-shingled shed roof of the back addition was extended south over the bathroom.

The west rear wall of the main block cannot be seen because the two one-story additions to this elevation span its length. The final addition built on a parged concrete block foundation to the house and comprising a three-bay-deep and eight-bay-wide family room occurred in the 1970s.<sup>xi</sup> It has a sixteen-light wood door in the east corner beside the kitchen wing and rambling aluminum, nine-over-nine, double-hung-sash windows ending at the west corner board. The asphalt-shingled shed roof above the circa 1920 extension of the porch carries backward over this room. The west gable end of the near kitchen wing has paired, four-light, sliding, aluminum windows that are over the inside sink.

The north gable end of the original block now has two bays flanking the broad stone chimney, but originally this side had no openings on the first story, and the four-light and two-light cellar window openings are not original. The later first-story opening to the east front of the chimney is covered with plastic, while the aluminum sliding window west of the chimney for an interior bathroom temporarily remains. A four-over-four, aluminum window is east of the chimney in the gable. The original gable windows were probably two-over-four, wood sash like those remaining at Summerset, four miles to the north. The broadly sloping four-bay-wide, one-story frame, rear addition has an aluminum, six-over-six, double-hung-sash window east of nine-light French doors and two nine-over-nine, aluminum windows on the northwest corner. An asphalt-shingled shed-roofed porch shelters the entrance into the family room.

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Interior – The cellar is entered from the exterior bulkhead located in the southwest corner of the main block or from steps inserted under the stairs in the back passage in the twentieth century. The bulkhead framing is also twentieth-century work. The smaller west room holds the broiler now. A modern horizontal, two-light, metal window is on the upper north wall. The unfinished ceiling is composed of hewn and pit-sawn joists, except for three circular-sawn replacements in the north corner. Here, the undersides of the upper floor boards of the back northeast room are heavily charred from a fire. Probably started by a spark from the corner fireplace in the chamber above, the threat must have been quickly contained since there is no further damage beyond this north corner of this west room. The framing for the former corner fireplace in the upper room remains in the ceiling at the southeast corner. Surrounded by a pegged and axed frame, a strap-hinged board-and-batten door opens into the larger room on the east front. The floor is poured concrete in both rooms, and evidence suggests that the first cellar was only about five feet deep. Although the masonry dividing wall between the rooms is stone on the west side, it is brick on the opposing east side which may have been for later secondary support of the north broad-axed girder that is tenoned into the off-center, east-to-west, broad-axed summer beam. A second girder connects into the summer on the south side. The corner fireplace framing for the lost feature in the room above remains in the south ceiling of this east room. The framing for the surviving corner fireplace in the opposite northwest corner of the northeast room above is also visible. Apparently, the first exterior cellar entrance was in the northeast corner of the north wall of this east room, judging by infill seams in the stone wall. Plywood covers the two horizontal window openings on the east front wall. The exposed upper floor boards are pit-sawn and gouged flat over the pit-sawn joists that have tapered hewn ends toward the tenon.

Primary Floor – (Please refer to the plans under the additional documentation section.) The original circa 1760-61 dwelling consisted of a double-pile floor plan with four rooms and a narrow stair passage at rear center. The certain use of the four living spaces is unknown. Robert Ashby's 1792 inventory provides no information to indicate the social function, and the Shackletts requested that no appraisal be conducted after their deaths.<sup>xiii</sup> The center east entrance with a replaced raised-panel door opens into a nearly sixteen-foot-square front room on the northeast that retains its original pine floor and fireplace in the northwest corner. A purely original nine-over-nine, single-hung sash, wood window remains on the east front wall. The single-hung-sash window is significant because double-hung sashes were rarely used before the Revolution.<sup>xiii</sup> The now plastic-covered window opening on the north side wall was cut through a downbrace in the nineteenth century. While there is evidence of a former chair rail, the beaded baseboard remains, and the walls and ceiling are plastered. Bulging plaster patches in the northwest corner of the west rear wall and in the south side wall suggested former doorways. The first-mentioned area was recently chipped away after documentation and analysis to confirm the apparently original opening that was enclosed in circa 1840 with cut-nailed split lath. In period one, the door opened into a small back room measuring just over nine-by-seven feet that was heated by a small northeast corner fireplace. The rear wall of this space would have had a nine-over-nine, single-hung-sash, wood window when first constructed, but this element was probably removed in the 1840s with the addition of a porch chamber similar to the former southeast front one shown in an 1853 drawing. This window was probably then inserted into the north side wall of the front room where the opening is now covered with plastic. The back room was converted into a bathroom in the early twentieth century.

Almost directly opposite the central front entrance, an unusual flat and beaded-panel door with H-L hinges is within the period-one architrave to the back stair passage. The narrow bead alongside the planed flat-panel infill on the front of the door may suggest a later circa 1800 period, but the design is most unusual. The opposite back door is a modern raised panel, while the architrave is original. There is an early board-and-batten door with H-L hinges to the back stair closet where the exposed step framing is block or cleat construction as seen in Virginia before the Revolution.<sup>xiv</sup> The floor boards were cut and battened for a hatch door to the cellar in the twentieth century. A wide plain chair rail details the south wall of the plastered passage.



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Originally there were two rooms, each heated by corner fireplaces, south of the northeast entertaining room and the back stair passage. Situated on the south side of the house where the meat house and dairy remain and the former summer kitchen stood, the front southeast room may have been the dining room originally that was enlarged in circa 1808. The front southeast room was the larger nine-foot-two-inch-wide and nearly fourteen-foot-deep space with a door on the south side out to the summer kitchen and another in the west partition wall to the southwest back chamber. The back room was of the same width but eleven-feet-three-inches deep, and a nine-over-nine, single-hung-sash, wood window was on the rear wall where a door with a heavily-worn outside sill is presently. The window was moved over to the southwest corner of the south wall, cutting through part of the downbrace, in this circa 1840 alteration. The floor in these originally divided south rooms dates to the nineteenth century, while the walls and ceiling were covered in drywall in the twentieth century. The present owner recently removed the drywall to expose the scantling. This revealed prudent English framing including some crooked hewn studs that the colonial carpenter notched and shimmed to straighten and pit-sawn downbraces on the north partition wall. Plaster residue and hammered-over wrought nails on the framing proves the room was first finely finished. The backside of the riven oak lath on the adjacent north rooms can also be seen. The studs and wrought-nailed header for the former door between the southeast and northeast front rooms clearly indicates this was a period-one feature that was enclosed in circa 1840.

The architectural investigation revealed a compilation of evidence to strongly indicate the original division of the south rooms in period one and the corner fireplaces. Although the common mortar in the stone chimney and alternately-glazed brick fireplace surround at this south side of the house represents early workmanship, crossover nails were found in the east side framing member pointing into the trim board of the removed mantelpiece. The hewn stud against the right-west side of the masonry chimney is heavily weathered, as is the remaining upper portion of a hewn stud three-feet-seven-inches forward from the left-east side. While the latter stud was cut off for insertion of a window in the twentieth century, the weathering on the west side is a result of years of moisture absorption alongside a much broader, nearly ten-foot-wide chimney than presently exists. The strewn stones of the wider chimney remain under the house in the crawlspace directly between the weathered east stud and the existing masonry element. The north-to-south, ten-inch-wide, oak ceiling girder has mortises for the former partition between the two south rooms. This evidence substantiates the framing for the two corner fireplaces as seen in the cellar ceiling underneath. Cut-off nailers for fastening the mill-sawn weatherboard needed to fill in the former chimney space on the outside of the house were wrought-nailed to this south wall between the weathered west stud and the existing chimney. The continued use of wrought nails with hand-headed shouldered cut nails is expected in the crossover period of this alteration which coincides with the change of ownership to Edward Shacklett in 1807. Considering the singed rafters in the roof above, the modification may have been influenced by a fire.

The front southeast room was decreased in size with the insertion of a wall with a door just west of the south exterior door to the food service buildings in circa 1840. This created a small nine-foot-two-inch by six-foot-four-inch room that further caused a door to be cut through the opposite north wall for passage into the northeast room. Since the south door provided an outside exit, the later, circa 1870, enclosure with circular-sawn lath and plaster of the front nine-over-nine, single-hung-sash window and the insertion of a crudely constructed second front door architrave on the east wall seems unnecessary. It might become logical, if at some point earlier than the remaining architectural and photographic evidence indicates, the south porch was enclosed between circa 1870 and 1898, thus, eliminating immediate outside access.

Rear additions - The original back doorway in the passage and the secondary door in the southwest room open into the rear additions. The latter door was most likely inserted for expedient access to the circa 1840, formerly-detached near kitchen at the southwest corner. Its worn-down doorsill suggests that this became the primary rear access into the main block which may have been shaped by the century-long tavern use as well as by design since the center entrance carries through a dark stair passage. A large bedroom is at center with a smaller bedroom to the north in

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the circa 1920 wing that was built directly under the mill-sawn rafters of the circa 1808 back porch without removing this important early feature. Further back to the west, a large, circa 1970, family room spans the width of the house. The near kitchen wing holds the bath and laundry room added to the front in the 1970s and the modern kitchen with a near-center chimney. Heavily modernized in the 1990s, the fireplace has a heating stove on the east side, and the kitchen stove, sink and cabinets are on the west back. The north side doorway of the kitchen, which clearly shows in a circa 1963 photograph taken before the family room construction, remains in place and serves as the entrance into this lower-level addition which requires several steps down from an entry landing.<sup>xv</sup>

Second floor – (Please refer to the plans under the additional documentation section.) The corner boxed stairway in the main block presently winds up to a center passage with a relocated door directly opposite into a southeast front bedchamber. The four walls and ceiling are plastered. There is a plain baseboard and a beaded chair rail. An aluminum, four-over-four, double-hung-sash window is on the south side, and a similar window is in the dormer on the east front wall. A board-and-batten door below the dormer to storage space behind the knee wall is of the first period. The planed raised-panel door toward the stair passage, and flat-paneled on the inside of the private chamber, is fastened to the jamb with H-L hinges and does appear to be original. However, it was likely moved here along with the architrave from its former location in the north-south, period-one wall between the north and southeast bedchambers, as evidenced by the filled mortises in the original pine floor within this room. The ceiling is also patched where the wall was first located. This southeast bedchamber was originally nine-and-one-half-feet wide and symmetrical to the southwest back room until this circa 1808 wall relocation. The front bedchamber had a first-period door on the west wall into the back chamber where one now opens out into the passage instead. Turned into a bathroom in the twentieth century, the southwest bedchamber has a four-over-four, double-hung-sash, aluminum replacement window in the dormer on the back wall and also in the opening on the south side wall.

A board-and-batten door with H-L hinges opens from the passage into the larger, full-depth north bedchamber where a small fireplace with a stone hearth and a four-over-four, double-hung-sash, aluminum replacement window are on the north side wall. Dormers on the west rear and east front walls also have similar aluminum sash replacement windows. The ceiling and walls were covered with drywall in the twentieth century including the circa 1808 vertical-board south partition with the board-and-batten door to the narrow stair passage. When originally constructed, the second floor plan consisted of the large heated room on the north, no central passage and two small unheated bedchambers on the south. The three rooms and passage were finely finished with plaster.

Access into the roof framing presently is from a rectangular entrance cut into the passage ceiling. There is no floor, and the joists are pit sawn. The collar beam on the south gable is pit sawn, while the north tie beam is hewn. The pit-sawn rafters are half-flap-joined and fastened with rose-head wrought nails at the ridge and to the raising plate. Several rafters on the southwest side have been burned across the top edge which suggests that the oak wood-shingled roof caught fire at sometime. The first and second rafter pair from both gable ends have spliced logs at the top, pegged at the ridge but half-lapped and wrought-nailed to the pit-sawn originals resting on the plate. The third rafters inward from both ends have been spliced at the top about four feet from the ridge with a cut-nailed, mill-sawn board. However, wrought nails still protrude from the angled ends of these original rafters and are not related to the board spliced in for later support. They apparently fastened inwardly-sloped rafters for a hipped end, and it was ultimately determined that the house had jerkin-head or clipped gables when constructed.<sup>xvi</sup> This is the earliest known jerkin-head roof in Fauquier County.

Overall, the architectural evidence in this Virginia double-pile dwelling house supports the 1760-61 date of construction established by dendrochronology and primary-source research, making it the earliest dated house in Fauquier County. The English-type framing is composed of either hewn or pit-sawn scantling fastened with rose-head wrought nails. The one original nine-over-nine, single-hung-sash, wood window with its finely hand-planed

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and treenailed mortise-and-tenon-joined architrave, the block method of stair building and north chimney construction are pre-Revolution designs. Although there have been several weatherboarded frame additions, owners located all but the minor south porch room in the back, thereby diminishing their importance and retaining the original form of the colonial house from the front and sides. The interior changes to the floor plan, including the loss of the two corner fireplaces on the south end and the relocation of room partition walls and doors, appear to have been influenced by disaster, social trends and the long commercial function as a tavern. One owner utilized economy of design and preferred preservation treatment as he saved the architectural and cultural value of the circa 1808 rear porch by leaving its mill-sawn roof rafters and sheathing in situ and constructing a low six-foot-nine-inch-high ceiling underneath for two new rooms created with its enclosure. His early-twentieth-century foresight retained the option to reopen and expose the porch and back wall of the main block in the future. The dwelling and former tavern retains high architectural integrity in workmanship, materials and design.

**Dairy, contributing building, circa 1760:** This one-story, one-bay, rubble stone, masonry dairy with an asphalt-shingled shed roof was built against the north side of the stone meat house and thirty-six feet from the southeast corner of the dwelling. The roof was fully replaced in the twentieth century when the meat house received a new cover. The heavily-worn board-and-batten door with clenched T-headed wrought nails on the west elevation may be original along with its wrought hardware including the heart latch handle. There are three holes in the door where locks were once fastened. Rose-head wrought nails fasten the H-L hinges on the inside. A worn vertically-barred, thirty-one-inch-wide by seven-inch-high window is on the north side under the eave, while a four-light wood casement is on the east elevation. This large architrave has pegged mortise-and-tenon joints like the north window, but the glazed window is not an original feature. There are seven diagonally-cut square mortises for vertical bars in the header above. The mortar, with a heavy clay content and little remaining lime, matches that used in the meat house. Cement was poured on the interior floor trough and on the north, east and south side ledges probably when the meat house floor received an application. Closer to the dwelling, this dairy, along with the downhill stone springhouse, now a ruin, would have been necessary dependencies for a thriving house of private entertainment. The stonework is identical to the neighboring meat house. The dairy measures thirteen-feet-six inches deep by eight-feet-ten-inches wide and retains very good integrity.

**Meat House, contributing building, 1760-1817:** The meat house directly abuts the south wall of the stone dairy. This one-story, one-bay, rubble-stone masonry building has a non-original, asphalt-shingled pyramidal roof.<sup>xvii</sup> The meat house is thirteen-feet-six-inches square. The period-one hewn door lintel on the west façade is pegged, but the jambs are partly lost to Portland cement. The board-and-batten door is a replacement. A one-by-two-foot window opening is on the east back and south side under the eaves. The window opening on the north is blocked by the adjacent stone wall of the dairy. The wooden lintel and sill of the south window appear original, but the east opening's lintel and jambs are circular-sawn replacements. Ten vertical hewn bars remain in the south window. The cement interior floor indicates conversion in the twentieth century for storage. Although the roof has been replaced, which is not uncommon if used as a smokehouse, there is a hewn oak false plate above the lower six-inch-by-nine-inch broad-axed plate. The hewn eight-to-nine-inch, oak joists are sturdily-pegged through a mortise-and-tenon joint to the plate. There are wood nailers within the back and side stone walls for a full-width shelf. The north interior wall beside the dairy had a large four-foot-square hole in the northeast corner and was recently repaired, along with structural cracks in the long-neglected masonry wall. Dendrochronological sampling of the west oak plate yielded an 1816 tree felling date, and four oak joists gave 1816 (two), 1817 and 1804 dates, the latter being without bark edge, while the 1817 date lost one ring. This was not a desired thorough sampling due to the lack of bark edge on the few oldest timbers. Comparison of the stonework and mortar to the foundation of the oldest main block of the house and those of the adjoining dairy, however, suggests the masonry walls of this meat house predate the timbers. This important meat preserving and storage building survived the Civil War and remains as a significant example of such a vital utility building for a colonial residence and tavern.

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**Tenant House, non-contributing building, circa 1940:** This one-story, four-bay, board-and-batten frame building on a cinder-block foundation with a standing-seam-metal gable roof faces south and stands across the gravel parking lot to the southwest of the meat house. The east gable facing the parking lot has no openings, nor does the opposite west end in the yard. A Victorian raised-panel wood door with arched upper panels is in the southwest corner of the south façade. A six-over-six, double-hung-sash, wood window abuts its east side. A deteriorating flat-paneled door is at the southeast corner of the façade, and a six-over-six, double-hung-sash, wood window abuts this door on the west, leaving a wide center without a bay. Two six-over-six, double-hung-sash, wood windows with louvered wood shutters are on the north back elevation bringing light into the formerly divided two interior rooms. The southwest window now has a metal stove pipe through the top middle glass pane that rises high above the eave, but the stack was formerly through the center of the roof. The interior wall and ceiling finish is two-and-one-half-inch-wide lateral-bead wainscoting unusually laid horizontally on the walls. The design and form of this building suggests that it was used as a tenant house for farm laborers or an office during the mid-twentieth century. Although the building was constructed outside of the period of significance, it is compatible in design, materials and scale.

**Garage, non-contributing building, circa 1960:** Situated south of the parking area, this north-facing, one-story, three-bay-wide, board-and-batten frame garage with an asphalt-shingled gable roof stands on a cement pad above a cinder-block foundation. Three overhead paneled doors open into the undivided single-cell interior. Also used as a workshop, the building is compatible in design, materials and scale. The garage, like all buildings at Yew Hill, is painted white.

**Barn, contributing building, 1798-99; 1857:** Dated 1798-99 by dendrochronology of five sampled bark-edged timbers in the main block, when ten or more are preferred for a solid date, Colonial Williamsburg carpenters believe the center section of the barn dates much earlier, and architectural analysis herein agrees.<sup>xviii</sup> This side-gabled, timber-frame, threshing and multi-purpose barn stands nearly fifty feet south of the garage facing east into the barnyard. The central one-story-and-loft, three-bay-wide main block with a stone foundation and standing-seam-metal gable roof is the oldest part containing a preponderance of wrought nails and hewn timbers, excluding a twelve-foot-eight-inch full-length addition to the rear in the late nineteenth century. Originally, the barn was twenty-nine feet long by twenty-four feet deep. One-story, one-bay, shed-and-hip-roofed wings on concrete block foundations were added to the north and south sides in circa 1900. These combination roofs are shed on the front and hipped on the rear. The front elevation is entirely sheathed with shiplapped horizontal planks largely applied within the last decade apparently, but the barn was earlier sided with a beveled-edge weatherboard. Horizontal planks are also in the upper gables of the main block, while the side additions and back elevation are covered with board and batten. Screened rectangular windows flank the tall and wide center entrance into the center aisle of the barn. Wood gates are across the entrances into the side wings. There are two screened rectangular windows on the north side and three across the back wall. Double-leaf tall doors with strap hinges are on the centered rear entrance. A circa 1940 board-and-batten chute to the towering concrete stave silo is in the southwest corner. There are no openings on the south end.

Interior – Although there is an open center aisle with a dirt floor for wagons or machinery currently, there are mortises for former joists in the waist-high hewn side sills for the earlier elevated wood threshing floor. The front and back stone foundation was not turned inside for the ten-by-eight sill and heavily-framed walls of the mows south and north of the aisle. Instead, a stone pier is at center on each side. Twelve-inch broad-axed summer beams remain under these side mows. The south side floor area appears to have contained a mow and granary with a hay mow on the north side. The latter was converted into three horse stalls in the nineteenth century when there must have been a ramp up into these elevated spaces. Wooden saddle racks of the same period are on the beaded oak-paneled walls. There are also smaller livestock bays south of and above the aisle presently that are equally embellished.

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The exposed oak English timber-framed structural system consists of heavy broad-axed and mill-sawn timbers marked with Roman numerals for pairing the treenailed mortises and tenons of joining members. The chronological numerals stop at ten showing the depth of the initial major structural timbers. Rose-head wrought nails fasten the stud to downbrace joints. Only treenails or wrought nails were used to secure framing members in the oldest main part of the barn. No crossover-period nails were found, as one would expect in a 1798-99 building. Massive one-foot-thick timbers were axed into an L-shape to create the single corner posts of the main block. The edges of earlier beveled-edge weatherboard on the former rear wall can be seen behind the back corner posts, but not the nails to date it because the addition blocks the view. Livestock stalls are in the west rear addition space. The undivided south wing is used for storage, as a goat shelter and workshop. The north wing is largely open and has horse bays.

There is no ceiling or loft floor above the north wing, while there is on the south where a wall ladder in the southeast corner provides access. The Y-braced and diagonally-braced roof rafters at center are sawn, while pole rafters carry forth from purlins on the east front and west back. The heavy bracing is secured with cushion-head cut nails, and there are many open mortises in the girders as an indication of recycled timbers. The roof construction dates to the late nineteenth century, and the recycled timbers reportedly came from the circa 1816 first Cool Spring Methodist Church, replaced by the 1857 brick building standing on a lot partitioned from the Ashby-Shacklett tract.<sup>xix</sup> This well-crafted barn is in amazingly good condition showing continual use and maintenance of the roof sheathing and metal as well as the exterior siding. It is the earliest dated barn in Fauquier County to have remarkably survived the Civil War without damage.<sup>xx</sup>

**Concrete Stave Silo, non-contributing structure, circa 1940:** A board-and-batten chute is in the southwest back corner of the barn to this towering concrete block stave silo. Appropriate in setting, materials and location for the agricultural building, this structure was built outside of the determined period of significance.

**Horse Barn, non-contributing building, circa 1960:** This one-story, three-bay, vertical-board frame barn with a standing-seam-metal gambrel roof faces south toward a four-panel board fence enclosing the exercise yard and the outer south grazing field. A one-bay frame feed room with vertical slat board siding was added to the west side. This barn stands across the dirt farm road to the east of the eighteenth-century timber-framed barn and is compatible in design, materials and scale.

**Springhouse Ruin, contributing site, circa 1800:** The stone springhouse ruin lies in a branch on the north side of the current drive up to the house site and east of the former Winchester roadbed. Judging by the fairly large stone ledge remaining in the water, the door was on the southwest corner. No photographs or images have been found of the building.

#### ENDNOTES

<sup>i</sup>Fauquier County Deed Book 222/594, Clara S. McCarty, widow, to the Commonwealth of Virginia, 2.081 acres and 2.031 acres of land shown in Highway Plat Book 2, page 237 being a portion of that conveyed to the grantor in DB 203/565 in 1959; Fauquier County Highway Plat Book 2, page 237-238, 1953-1962.

<sup>ii</sup>Porte Crayon, "Private Entertainment," 1853, in *Virginia Illustrated: Containing a Visit to the Virginian Canaan, and The Adventures of Porte Crayon and His Cousins* (New York: Harper & Brothers Publishers, ca. 1857; reprint New York: Harper & Bros. Publishers, 1871), 266-7.

<sup>iii</sup>Ibid.

<sup>iv</sup>Fauquier County Clerk's Loose Papers, Land Disputes, Box 17, 1806-015, Enoch Ashby of Fauquier County to Alexander Ashby of Culpeper County, 121-½ acres known as "Ashby's Old Tavern," also a 2-¼-acre lot of land being before the house door on the east side of the road that Robert Ashby purchased of Francis Ash, 9 November 1806; Fauquier County Deed Book 71, page 119, Elizabeth Shacklett of Harrisonburg,

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Virginia to A. W. Phillips of Fauquier, a tract of 141 A. 1 R. 37 P. called "Yew Hill," 5 April 1880, recorded 28 June 1880. It was initially thought that the corner stone could be beginning points of Thomas Ashby's 320-acre parcel, the James Ball tract of 7,883 acres or possibly Charles Burges's north Cobbler grant, but none of their starting points begin at this discovered location.

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<sup>v</sup>Edward R. Cook, PhD, and William J. Callahan, "Tree-Ring Dating of Yew Hill, Fauquier County, Virginia, May 2003," 3-6, 8.

<sup>vi</sup>Excepting the obviously replaced window sash, the authenticity of the dormers has been much studied and deliberated by the author, Colonial Williamsburg carpenters Garland Wood, Noel Poirier and Ted Boscano and architectural historian Carl R. Lounsbury of Colonial Williamsburg as well. There are strong indications of originality including wrought nails, tool marks, rafter spacing and the frugal use of a piece of the front and back exterior cornice molding in an under panel.

<sup>vii</sup>Carl R. Lounsbury, *An Illustrated Glossary of Early Southern Architecture & Landscape* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1994), 286.

<sup>viii</sup>Postcard by Edward Shacklett, "Former Colonial Home of Miss Kitty Shacklett, Delaplane, Virginia. Now the residence of Geo. W. Chancellor," circa 1898, Donald Ashby Collection, South Riding, Virginia.

<sup>ix</sup>John Gott Collection, Turner Washington Shacklett, "Information Regarding the Family of Edward and Elizabeth Shacklett of Virginia Compiled for Those Who are Desirous of Becoming Members of the Daughters of the American Revolution," ca. 1925, 5, 7, Fauquier Heritage Society, Marshall, Virginia. Mr. Shacklett noted that there was a "near kitchen" and a "far kitchen." The latter must be the one formerly located to the south beside the dairy and meat house which is further away from the house; "A rear view of Yew Hill showing the old kitchen," circa 1963, Donald Ashby Collection of photographs provided him by Louise Ashby Leachman Via, daughter of Capt. and Mrs. John Turner Ashby, east front and south side elevations of Yew Hill, circa 1928, northwest rear corner of Yew Hill including the north side of the near kitchen.

<sup>x</sup>Ashby Collection photograph east front and south side elevations of Yew Hill, circa 1928; Fauquier County Land Tax Records show an increase in 1921 and 1972 in support of the family photographs and architectural evidence.

<sup>xi</sup>Fauquier County Land Tax Records, 1972 and architectural evidence.

<sup>xii</sup>Fauquier County Will Book 2, page 223, Inventory of Robert Ashby, deceased, 23 April 1792; Fauquier County Will Book 10, page 23, Edward Shacklett, Sr., Last Will and Testament, 25 February 1826, proved 25 September 1826; Fauquier County Will Book 16, page 273, Elizabeth Shacklett, Last Will and Testament, 28 April 1838, proved 25 November 1839; Fauquier County Will Book 31, page 184, Hezekiah Shacklett, Last Will and Testament, 16 October 1865, probate 25 May 1868; Fauquier County Will Book 36, page 380, Catharine Shacklett, Last Will and Testament, 7 December 1878, probate 27 October 1879.

<sup>xiii</sup>Lounsbury, 117; Marcus Whiffen, *The Eighteenth-Century Houses of Williamsburg* (Williamsburg, Virginia: The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, 1960; revised ed., Williamsburg, Virginia: The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, 1984), 108.

<sup>xiv</sup>Peter Sandbeck, Architectural Historian, "Report on the Hollow: Architectural Investigation Report" (Williamsburg, Virginia: Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, 11 July 2000), 2.

<sup>xv</sup>"A rear view of Yew Hill showing the old kitchen," circa 1963 photograph, Ashby Collection.

<sup>xvi</sup>Carl R. Lounsbury of Colonial Williamsburg during architectural investigation, 6 November 2002.

<sup>xvii</sup>Cook and Callahan., 4, 7-8.

<sup>xviii</sup>*Ibid.*; Noel Poirier, Journeymen Housewright, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation <NPoirier@CWF.org> to Cheryl Shepherd <CHERYLSHEPHERD24@aol.com> "RE: Yew Hill" (27 June 2003); Daniel Miles, "Interpretation, Presentation and use of Tree-ring Dates," *Vernacular Architecture* 28 (1997) : 40; Lee Fleming Reese, M. A. *The Ashby Book; Descendants of Captain Thomas Ashby of Virginia* (San Diego, California: Lee Fleming Reese, 1976), 184. The Ashby Book suggests that the Yew Hill barn was built from the frame material of Cool Spring Church when it was reconstructed in brick in 1857. The late-nineteenth-century nails, tool marks and use of recycled timbers on the heavily-braced roof structure and the twelve-foot-eight-inch-deep back addition could be where the church frame material was applied. The lower floor of the main block retains late-eighteenth-century integrity.

<sup>xix</sup>Fleming, 184; Clara S. McCarty, *The Foothills of the Blue Ridge in Fauquier County, Virginia* (Warrenton, Virginia: *The Fauquier Democrat*, 1974), 97.

<sup>xx</sup>David Edwards, Director of the Winchester Regional Office of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources <DEdwards@dhr.state.va.us> to Cheryl Shepherd <CHERYLSHEPHERD24@aol.com> "RE: Earliest barn in region" [in response to personal email] (22 April 2003).

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**8. Statement of Significance**

Yew Hill meets three areas of significance in local history relating to the themes of commerce, transportation and architecture from 1760 through 1879, earning the property eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. Yew Hill meets Criterion A for representing over 100 years of commercial history as a prominent tavern on one of Virginia's most important and well-traveled routes between the Shenandoah Valley and the Falmouth-Fredericksburg Rappahannock River waterfront. Robert Ashby kept an ordinary at his house from 1760 until his death in 1792 when his son Enoch took charge until 1806. The next year the dwelling became the property of Edward Shacklett whose wife Elizabeth, son Hezekiah and daughter Kitty welcomed travelers and friends to the hospitality of Shacklett's Tavern into the reconstruction period. Built between 1760 and 1761, the tavern house is further distinguished for its architectural significance and eligibility for listing under Criterion C, as it is the oldest known surviving building in Fauquier County and the only colonial dwelling discovered in the region to have been built with a jerkin-head gable roof.<sup>xxi</sup> This distinction is made more remarkable since this one-and-one-half-story Virginia house is the county's groundbreaking example of the movement from the traditional hall-and-chamber plan toward the double-pile central-hall arrangement. The architectural significance is enhanced by the 1798-99 threshing barn, which is the earliest dated outbuilding in the county.<sup>xxii</sup> Yew Hill continues to have very good integrity in location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

**Historic Context**

In 1742, Lord Fairfax granted Robert Ashby's father Thomas 320 acres of vacant land, "lying across the Road to Shannandoah," in what was then Prince William County.<sup>xxiii</sup> The acreage was bordered on the north by James Ball, Goose Creek and Landon Carter, on the south by Colonel Turner and on the east by Charles Burges's north Cobbler tract. Having served as the pilot and chief woodsman with surveyors John Savage and Benjamin Winslow on Lord Fairfax's Potomac boundary delineation in 1736, Thomas Ashby led John Warner's measurement of his new land acquisition. The resulting plat clearly shows the Shenandoah Road winding through the tract, creating an elongated triangle of land where buildings would later develop on the west side of this increasingly-traveled passage through the Crooked Run Valley south to Fredericksburg.<sup>xxiv</sup> Thomas Ashby had earlier established his manor plantation overlooking the Shenandoah River in Frederick County and appears to have first leased this land south of Goose Creek at the mouth of Crooked Run.

Deceased in 1752, he devised all of the Goose Creek parcel "whereon Enoch Berry now lives" to his son Benjamin. Enoch may have been related to the elder Ashby because Thomas left livestock to Reuben and Ann Berry, who he called cousins, but no certain connection or knowledge of his whereabouts thereafter has surfaced, except for the 1759 Fauquier County tax list placing him in the same district as Benjamin and Robert Ashby.<sup>xxv</sup> Benjamin Ashby seems to have settled on the northern portion of his Goose Creek inheritance, and his younger brother Robert was in actual possession of the fifty-acre elongated triangle to the south sometime before the deed of lease and release to ownership made between the siblings in November of 1759.<sup>xxvi</sup> This triangle lay southeast of 200 acres of farmland Robert later bought of the north Cobbler tract the next year. Robert Ashby already had his first license to keep an ordinary at his house in Prince William County in November of 1757. Yet, he was apparently still living in Frederick County in July of 1758 since his name was listed first in the poll there for the election of Col. George Washington for the 1758-1765 term in the House of Burgesses.<sup>xxvii</sup>

As western settlements established in greater numbers from the Shenandoah River into Prince William County on the Ashby, Landon Carter, James Ball and Burges grants, development of transportation routes became a priority. By the mid-eighteenth century, the Shenandoah Road was considered one of the major inland routes in the colony. Settlers had cleared the former Indian passage from Ashby's Gap in the Blue Ridge southeast beyond the branches



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of the Occoquan into Stafford County where it arrived at the southern port of Falmouth on the Rappahannock River. In a court deposition made in 1813, Robert Ashby's son John recalled hauling produce and hogshead of tobacco for his neighbors on the Shenandoah Road to Falmouth in the 1760s.<sup>xxviii</sup> The widened thoroughfare had created a rolling road that enabled transport of tobacco by wagon to the Rappahannock trading port for shipping to England. It would be some time before the improvement of the path from Ashby's Gap east to West's Ordinary to reach the nearer port at Alexandria and the Potomac.<sup>xxix</sup>

In response to a petition from the Frederick County court to bring a road from Thoroughfare Gap at the Pignut Ridge to the top of the Blue Ridge at Manassas Run, the Prince William County court ordered overseers to improve another Native American trail from the west at Manassas (Calmes') Gap eastward across the Shenandoah Road in 1748. This second major transportation route in the Piedmont valley bordered the southern boundary of the Ashby tract and established an important crossroad.<sup>xxx</sup> Although this Manassas Gap Road was not drawn, John Dalrymple added colonial roads and more landmarks during his substantial 1755 revision of the Joshua Fry and Peter Jefferson map of the most inhabited part of Virginia. The cartographer did include the Shenandoah Road running through the Crooked Run Valley from Ashby's Gap crossing Goose Creek and continuing all the way south past Falmouth to Fredericksburg.<sup>xxxi</sup>

Intersections of well-traveled roadways in rural colonial America were recognized by weary travelers as the place to find water, food, spirits and accommodations for themselves and their horses at an anticipated ordinary or house of private entertainment. Long influenced by the Fry, Jefferson and Dalrymple location of Watts Ordinary on the west side of the Shenandoah Road, which appeared to be directly at the site of the present Yew Hill dwelling, historians and locals have known Robert Ashby's Tavern and Shacklett's Tavern on the northwest corner of the Manassas Gap Road as Watts's first. Later mapmakers including Thomas Jefferson, who worked from other maps in his possession while in France in 1787, and Fauquier County road records placed Thomas Watts within the vicinity and perhaps on the nominated property. Watts had obtained a license from the Prince William County court for an ordinary at his house in June of 1753. On October 6<sup>th</sup> of the same year, Mr. Watts was among four specified ordinary keepers on the Shenandoah Road, listed after Joseph Neavil, twelve miles south, who Col. George Washington ordered to have at their houses food provisions for sixty men who would shortly be marching by en route to Fort Cumberland.<sup>xxxii</sup>

While maintaining a current ordinary license seemed to become secondary to managing the business since lapses and presentments to the court of delinquent tavern keepers were quite common, no other licenses or court summonses for Thomas Watts were found in either Prince William or Fauquier counties. Possibly, Robert Ashby accepted proprietorship of Watts Ordinary at settlement, and therefore acquired the 1757 license in his name. When traveling through Virginia en route to Williamsburg in the 1750s, Daniel Fisher visited and critiqued many ordinaries and discovered that the more influential of society were obtaining tavern licenses in their good names but then hired a tavern keeper.<sup>xxxiii</sup> Mr. Watts was indeed acquainted with the Ashbys since he was a witness against Robert in a dismissed suit in Prince William in 1754. Further, when Watts died in Fauquier County in 1769, Robert Ashby was one of the appraisers of his estate.<sup>xxxiv</sup> Regardless, no building dating as early as 1753 or 1757 stands today on the nominated property. Dendrochronology conducted on the existing colonial dwelling at Yew Hill dates the oak timber framing within the building to 1760-61.<sup>xxxv</sup>

Therefore, questions remain as to whether the first ordinary for either gentleman was in the no longer extant building thought to be the summer kitchen that Porte Crayon illustrated in 1853 just west of the dairy and meat house or within another lost building on the hill. Perhaps, it stood unusually downhill in the southeast corner closer to the intersection where many glass and pottery sherds have risen to the topsoil. It may have been on the larger northern Benjamin Ashby portion, now called The Meadows, where the road has a similar curve to that shown in the Fry-Jefferson map.<sup>xxxvi</sup> It must be taken into consideration that Watts Ordinary could have been on an adjoining or

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nearby property since Dalrymple excluded the landmark Manassas Gap Road, and Fry and Jefferson placed Goose Creek in

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too-close proximity to Ashby's Gap on their map of 1755. Although he never owned land, Thomas Watts does appear to have remained in the vicinity until his death, as he replaced Leeds Manor tenant David Barton as caretaker of his section of the Shenandoah Road in 1761 and was later a viewer of the Manassas Gap Road in 1764.<sup>xxxvii</sup>

A member of the Fauquier County Militia, Capt. Robert Ashby would have been approximately forty years of age with eight children, born between 1740 and 1759, when he assumed residency on the corner of these crossroads. His wife Mary Elizabeth was likely or soon to be deceased, as her name does not appear on any of his land transactions.<sup>xxxviii</sup> Along with his father and brothers, Robert was employed by Lord Fairfax or his agents and joined many surveying expeditions of their lands. He was the marker member of George William Fairfax's surveying party including surveyor James Genn, chainmen Henry Ashby and Richard Taylor as well as a sixteen-year-old George Washington in 1747/8.<sup>xxxix</sup> He was soon drawn into a boundary dispute between the Fairfax Proprietors and tenant Peter Wolfe, who ordered him to stop marking his settlement in Frederick County. Mr. Wolfe had already lost some of his acreage, he believed, when Colonel Carter had earlier surveyed his adjoining boundary. Therefore, Wolfe wanted Lord Fairfax to allow him a portion of his adjacent land to make up the difference. The controversy evolved into a lawsuit in the Frederick County Court of Chancery fifteen years later. Robert Ashby was called to testify and stated in his deposition that after Wolfe hindered the 1747 survey, his father Thomas told him that he was earlier ordered by Lord Fairfax to find this particular tract vacant because the Proprietor desired it for himself. Lord Fairfax also deposed and informed the court that the land Peter Wolfe desired was part of that on which he intended for his personal manor, known as Greenway Court.<sup>xl</sup>

**Robert Ashby's Tavern**

In 1760, the year after the establishment of Fauquier County from Prince William County, Robert Ashby received another license to keep an ordinary at his house. A stable or horse barn was a requirement of approval of the General Assembly and the court. He "shall constantly find and provide in his said ordinary good wholesome and cleanly lodging and Diet for Travellers and Stableage Fodder and provender or pasturage and provender as the season shall require for their Horses . . . and shall not suffer or permit any unlawful gaming in his House nor on the Sabbath Day."<sup>xli</sup> The Fauquier County court also established liquor prices for the several ordinary keepers to charge throughout the year, setting imported rum and French brandy at twelve shillings, six pence per gallon while English strong beer shall cost three pence more than Virginia's one shilling quart bottle.<sup>xlii</sup> Captain Ashby annually renewed his ordinary license through 1765. A lapse in the records occurs until 1770 when he is shown with the last recorded license in his name. Twenty years after his death in 1792 and indicating that tavern keeping was ongoing in his dwelling, however, the sheriff still summoned him to appear before the court where he was presented in absence for failing to acquire a license.<sup>xliii</sup>

Dendrochronological testing of fifteen bark-edged oak timbers in the heavy framing of Robert Ashby's Tavern have yielded a sound 1760 date of tree felling. Three, however, were felled in 1759. The old oak trees had grown on his formerly forested land as early as 1571. Ashby and his slaves would have built the tavern before the planting season of the spring of 1761 in this remote territory as the slued broad-axe check marks on hewn timbers and the wide gaps in joints indicate shrinking of green wood after construction.<sup>xliv</sup> While the tree-ring analysis disagrees with the first date that Robert Ashby received an ordinary license, his fourth generation descendant, Capt. John Turner Ashby, Sr., who owned and lived in the existing house between 1915 and 1928, learned from his grandparents and neighboring family that it was his great-great grandfather's tavern. This knowledge continues to pass through the generations of Ashbys.<sup>xlv</sup> Architectural evidence in form, workmanship and materials concurs with the 1760-61 date, and the placement of the house and outbuildings on the hill is consistent with archaeological studies revealing that "historic

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sites cluster near road networks, and on top of, or near the tops of, hills or ridges because of the desire to leave prime bottom land open for agricultural purposes.<sup>xxlvi</sup> Three years older than his friend and colleague Thomas Marshall's

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The Hollow dwelling (030-0803), Robert Ashby's Tavern is the earliest dated remaining building in the Crooked Run Valley and throughout Fauquier County.<sup>xlvi</sup>

Built before a sawmill emerged in this frontier valley, the structural members are pit sawn or broad axed in the main block. Pit saw marks remain on the underside of the fascia and the front and back cornice moldings that are, of course, hand planed on the visible detailed side. Original to the tavern, the broad north stone chimney has a free-standing stack which is typical of the colonial period. Although this executed original element appears to have been destroyed by a fire or removed afterwards in circa 1808, Ashby's ordinary was most extraordinary for having clipped gables in a region where none have been found to date to the eighteenth century or even early nineteenth century. Unique in Colonial Williamsburg, where early roofs were more commonly gabled as in Fauquier, the one original surviving hip-above-the-collars example there remains, coincidentally perhaps, on a tavern, built by Henry Wetherburn in 1743.<sup>xlvi</sup> It is not known where Robert Ashby realized this unusual feature, whether within an architectural pattern book or if he had occasion to visit the capital, Chiswell's Scotchtown in Hanover County, the Lower Chapel in Middlesex County or have seen Thomas Lee's dependencies at Stratford.<sup>xlvi</sup> Conceivably, he heard about the design through Thomas Marshall and George Washington who were both members of the General Assembly, and the latter had great interest in architecture.

This rare roof design and the possibly original dormers on the front also distinguished Ashby's house from John Rout's gable-roofed Summerset standing nearly four miles north on the Shenandoah Road. Although the frame one-and-one-half-story, three-bay-wide, slightly smaller Summerset has many contemporary characteristics in form, the well-preserved dwelling has one large hall on the north heated by a single fireplace and two rooms on the south warmed by two small corner fireplaces. Robert Ashby's tavern had four corner fireplaces when built and still retains the two heating the divided rooms on the north, while the partition between the south chambers and the two corner boxes there were removed with reconstruction of the chimney in circa 1808. The north-end fireplaces were appropriately scaled to the size of the rooms, with the front nearly sixteen-foot-square chamber having the larger warming element, and a much smaller one is in the seven-by-nine-foot back room. Two years earlier than Thomas Marshall's The Hollow dwelling which was found to have two fireplaces on the first floor and one on the second, this colonial ordinary is particularly noteworthy in the frontier Piedmont for having four heated first-floor rooms and one in the bedchamber above.<sup>1</sup>

Not possessing the traditional hall-and-chamber plan, Ashby's house is the county's first representation of the evolution toward the two-room-deep center-hall arrangement in the third quarter of the eighteenth century, although the movement began earlier in the Tidewater.<sup>ii</sup> The front center hall, however, has not developed in this tavern, but there is a back center passage with a boxed stair winding up the north side wall. The stair framing is another architecturally-significant feature for being the only identified illustration of the pre-Revolutionary War technique of block or cleat construction in Fauquier. Of interest, the closest architecturally similar double-pile floor plan with exterior-end chimneys and four corner fireplaces to Ashby's tavern is Thomas Marshall's Oak Hill (30-44), distanced about two miles toward Marshall and built in 1773. Containing more square feet at four bays wide, Oak Hill's rooms are larger, but their original lay out and spacing ratio is identical to the decade-earlier ordinary. Marshall distinguished the centered back stair hall by flipping the winders to the rear door, thereby allowing for an opening into the small back chamber on the right where Ashby's stair winders begin.<sup>iii</sup> While social status and his slightly larger family may have influenced Marshall's want of four primary-floor rooms, the secondary function of Robert Ashby's dwelling as an ordinary probably affected his revolutionary introduction of the new form into the valley.

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These significantly-related floor plans for the two seven-room dwellings, along with Summerset's, might also indicate that the same master carpenter or possibly an uncommon colonial architect, such as John Ariss, worked on all three. Ariss, after all, leased Thomas Marshall's Germantown house after he left for The Hollow in 1765.<sup>liii</sup>

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Another characteristic common to Ashby's ordinary, Summerset and Oak Hill is the unusual exclusion of the expected side window in a typical eighteenth-century hall-and-chamber or double-pile center-hall plan in exchange for an original door. At Ashby's tavern, this south side entrance allowed expedient service of food and drink from the well-placed outbuildings to his guests who waited in the luxury of fully plastered rooms decorated with beaded chair rails and baseboards. Although seven rooms to accommodate Ashby's sizeable family and overnight tavern guests seems insufficient, it was not uncommon for visitors to share beds and sleep on the floor in the same room during busy nights throughout colonial times and into the early nineteenth century. Architect Benjamin Latrobe complained about the rowdy noise and insalubrious tavern lodgings that he suffered when traveling through Virginia and once expressed relief upon finding he would share a chamber in Petersburg with only six men. Doubtlessly when terrible storms forced travelers to find refuge for longer periods or during the busiest of times, even family quarters had to be shared in the smallest ordinary, which was not that uncommon at any time in these modest residences.<sup>liv</sup>

Opportunely located on the major valley thoroughfare in the midst of the third generation turnover and division of the landed Ball, Burges and Carter patents that inspired further partitions into leasehold and fee-simple plantation quarters, Robert Ashby's rural tavern benefited from a flurry of survey activity in the late eighteenth century. Lord Fairfax's Leeds Manor also lay west of the Blue Ridge and south of the Goose Creek and north Cobbler Mountain grants. In the third quarter of the eighteenth century, the Proprietor furthered the 1747/8 survey to define and lease more of his manor lots to planters in order to stimulate productivity and income.<sup>lv</sup> Having been among the earliest valley surveyors and privy to the future plans of his landed employers, Robert Ashby must have realized the private business opportunity to supplement his survey and agricultural income. He also recognized the public value of a welcoming rural tavern on the dark and rough road with sparsely-situated dwellers.

George Washington rested at his friend's tavern over several weeks in March of 1769 before and after surveying the 2,683-acre Springfield patent lands on Lost Mountain. Colonel Washington had previously purchased this fertile tract from the George Carter estate at the sale conducted at Captain Robert Ashby's on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November 1767. Bitterly cold and windy weather on the mountain forced Colonel Washington to return from the surveying field to Ashby's tavern standing within five miles to the south on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March. Weather conditions allowed a full next day of measuring the bounds, but the 12<sup>th</sup> was spent entirely inside the tavern. Surveyor Thomas Marshall of the nearby Hollow later came to dinner and lodged at Ashby's ordinary that night so the party could depart early the next morning. Washington noted in his diary that he was "executing leases to those who had taken Lotts – being at Capt. Ashbys" on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March.<sup>lvi</sup> Ten of the eleven leases written at the tavern were on land in Fauquier, and Robert Ashby witnessed all of the indentures by signing in his signature mark "R" between his given and surnames.<sup>lvii</sup> On the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of May 1772, the future president again "went up to Mr. Robt. Ashbys dined and lodged there" with Bryan Martin Fairfax during a trip to inspect Fairfax lands in Loudoun and Fauquier counties.<sup>lviii</sup> Mr. Fairfax encouraged his companion to select a 600-acre tract on Goose Creek and Chattens Run near Rectortown as compensation. Washington made his last entry in his diaries of his visits to Ashby's tavern on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 1774, arriving in the evening after the execution of leases with tenants such as Lewis Lemert who was also his collector of rents on the Lost Mountain estate.<sup>lix</sup>

The countryside ordinary was not simply a tavern, for these private houses of entertainment also served as places of community or social activity since other town services did not exist.<sup>lx</sup> Eighteenth-century taverns were recognizable meeting places for the communication of news, exchange of letters and posting of public notices for land auctions, lost or missing horses and slaves. Business was also conducted within or outside of the ordinary. The auction of nearby tracts often occurred at the neighborhood tavern, and these more public houses were a central location for

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attorneys to call together folks involved in legal disputes for the taking of their depositions among certain witnesses to be found there. Notices were posted and land auctions, such as the sale of the Carter tract to George Washington, are known to have taken place at Robert Ashby's Tavern. John Johnson requested that information regarding an

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indentured servant be left for him there in April of 1772. Others used the house as a directional landmark. In 1778, Reginald Graham advertised his land for sale lying "near Mr. Robert Ashby's tavern, on the main road from Fredericksburg or Dumfries to Winchester, 50 miles from Dumfries or Fredericksburg, and about 60 from Alexandria."<sup>lxvi</sup> Even as late as 1790, when there were more settled plantations along the way, road petitions used the tavern along with mills and still houses for siting proposed road improvements.<sup>lxvii</sup>

To the relief of sleepy travelers and their fatigued horses, rural colonial ordinaries were generally distanced six-to-twelve miles from one another.<sup>lxviii</sup> The nearest ordinaries to Robert Ashby's Tavern in 1760 were on the Shenandoah Road, including that of Joseph Neavil situated approximately twelve miles southeast on the Pignut Ridge, tenant David Barton on his 150-acre Leeds Manor lot approximately four-and-one-half miles south at White Oak Spring near Salem and Joseph Combs (formerly Kersey's) about eleven miles northwest at Ashby Gap. William West's Ordinary stood a straight-line distance of about sixteen miles to the northeast below present-day Aldie and near Gilbert's Corner.<sup>lxix</sup> Acquiring his lease in 1759, David Barton obtained his only license to operate an ordinary in his house on Carter's Run, apparently situated on the north side of the Shenandoah Road and on the west side of the passage to Ada in 1761, before assigning the property to Thomas Nelson in 1770. Barton's Ordinary was short-lived since neither gentleman pursued later licenses, nor did the court summon them for failure to do so. Furthermore, there is no other evidence to support a later tavern in this location.<sup>lxx</sup>

Kimball Hicks established the earliest known tavern in the village of Paris, seven miles north of Yew Hill, in 1782. Not as old a building or business as Robert Ashby's, Peter Glascock and the Thompson Ashbys continued the operation, as it evolved into Ashby's Tavern or Paris Inn until 1874. Also in Paris and beginning in 1800, Isaac Settle kept a tavern for forty-eight years.<sup>lxxi</sup> Daniel Floweree founded the later-called Maidstone Ordinary in the 1770s in Rectortown, approximately four miles northeast of Yew Hill, traveling by way of the Gap Run Road (present Route 710). This urban ordinary appears to have continued into the early nineteenth century.<sup>lxxii</sup> From these later village taverns to their rural predecessors in the Crooked Run Valley and south to George Neavil's in Auburn, only the one created by Robert Ashby in 1760 would still be operating through the Civil War as Shacklett's Tavern. In spite of not standing on eighteenth-century stagecoach routes, the colonial ordinary at the corner of the well-traveled valley roads and the recognized hospitality of its owners likely contributed to that longevity.<sup>lxxiii</sup>

Following the British invasion in the south from Florida into North Carolina during the Revolutionary War, the Virginia General Assembly enacted a law for procuring and storing a supply of provisions and other necessities for the use of the army in 1780. The alarmed legislators noted that "it may be indispensably necessary to provide and collect in proper places, with the utmost expedition, large stores of provisions, either to supply our own militia or continental troops, or for supplying the troops sent by our good allies to the assistance of these United States."<sup>lxxiv</sup> County commissioners were appointed and empowered to determine the quantity of provisions in the possession of every person and family and leave with said individuals only a sufficient quantity for their use, while purchasing the excess by means of a certificate for later reimbursement. The commissioners were authorized and required to "break open, in the day time, any house, barn, outhouse, mill, or storehouse, or other outhouses where any such enumerated articles may be suspected to be; and seize and take into his possession for the publick use of salted beef, pork and bacon . . . Indian corn, wheat, rye, oats, flour, salt, rum or other spirits" until the first day of September 1781.<sup>lxxv</sup> Realizing the necessity of taverns to travelers and the community, tavern keepers were allowed to retain greater quantities of supplies sufficient to the consumption of their families and guests.

Although the act called for the accumulated provisions to be stored in proper places, it did not specify particular locations to establish the storehouses, defined in the eighteenth century as a building used for the storage of

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domestic, agricultural and commercial items or for the sale of goods or supplies.<sup>lxxi</sup> However, earlier enabling legislation of 1779 gave county commissioners the power to procure storehouses, and to “employ a commissary at each place so appointed, to receive and keep accounts of the commodities.”<sup>lxxii</sup> Obviously well-known and highly

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regarded, Robert Ashby was appointed a commissioner in Fauquier County and further employed as a commissary since his property at the corner of the roads to the Shenandoah Valley and west of the Blue Ridge would be strategically important for militia access and potential activity. In addition to his widely-recognized ordinary, his land contained substantial storage buildings including a meat house, dairy, kitchen, springhouse and one or more barns. Furthermore, the tavern keeper had to have knowledge of keeping accounts for his establishment and could do the same for the supplies he was responsible for storing. During the February and March 1781 sessions, the county court paid Robert Ashby the considerable sum of 1,500 pounds for acting as “commissioner” and “for his trouble and the rent of his houses,” half of which was due to his employment as “commissary for store rent.”<sup>lxxiii</sup>

For the convenience of having the produce and needed horses and cattle for the use of the army at one place, the commissary’s grazing fields were also rented during the war. Ashby received a certificate and was later paid for providing pasturage for 113 beef cattle belonging to the Continental Army, sixty-three horses of the First and Third Regiment of the Light Dragoons and the overnight stay of nine horses in 1782. The cattle grazed at two pence a head, while the horses brought him three pence each. He also supplied fifty bundles of fodder to the Stafford Militia for which he was allowed three shillings per hundred weight. The tavern keeper complained to the court that he had not been paid for three certificates from three commissioned officers belonging to the Virginia Service in April of 1782, but the reason for the amount due him, be it for food, lodging or otherwise, was not explained.<sup>lxxiv</sup> The next month, the court allowed him three barrels of corn as rent for his “storehouse which was used by the Commissioners of Specific Tax.”<sup>lxxv</sup> Beyond the significance of learning about the stature of the aging Robert Ashby and the use of his tavern, outbuildings and fields in service to the fight for independence, he would need substantial open land to graze 185 head of livestock in addition to his own domestic animals, suggesting that more than a third of his 250 acres was pastureland. Ironically, the costs of the Revolutionary War caused an increase in taxation. The General Assembly laid a forty-pound tax above the fifty-pound license bond required for ordinaries in 1779.<sup>lxxvi</sup> Little wonder that Robert Ashby, like so many other tavern keepers, neglected to maintain his annual ordinary license with the heavier burden.

In 1783, Robert Ashby remarried in the seventh decade of his life to widow Catherine Combs after both signed a marriage contract, partly perhaps to protect his children’s future inheritance. The document provides that she would have no right to his real or personal property should she survive him, nor would he hold claim to any of her possessions including a fifty-acre parcel on which Anne Churchill lived. Her property must have been near Ashby’s, as a spring named after Ann Churchill ran through his land holdings which he would later use as a division line.<sup>lxxvii</sup> His doubts about his new wife were well-founded since he posted a notice in the *Virginia Gazette* and *Winchester Advertiser* informing that she “has eloped from my bed and board, for reasons unknown to me, I therefore forbid all persons whatever, from harbouring or dealing with her on my account, as I am determined not to pay any debts to her contracting, Robert Ashby, 21 February 1788.”<sup>lxxviii</sup>

Robert Ashby acquired his late son Nimrod’s 100-acre dwelling parcel behind his tavern boundary and crossing the Manassas Gap Road in 1789.<sup>lxxix</sup> His son Enoch appears to have overtaken the tavern responsibilities of his elderly father inasmuch as he admitted to retailing spirituous liquors contrary to law in 1782.<sup>lxxx</sup> Enoch has become the head of the household of seven whites in the 1785 Virginia State Census and is listed with one dwelling house, one other house and four slave cabins.<sup>lxxxi</sup> It is quite unusual for a deviser to explicitly loan his real and personal property to an heir until the individual dies and state the thereafter fee-simple recipient. Dying in 1792, however, Robert Ashby did not follow with an explanation in his will as to why he was lending his “loving son” Enoch Ashby his manor plantation and seven negroes until his death whereupon his home place was to be given to his grandsons Robert and Alexander with the slaves going to his daughter-in-law.<sup>lxxxii</sup> This was the father’s gentler way of not

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excluding Enoch, who was “subject to intoxication and not a careful man,” and, he feared, might be vulnerable to bad decision or manipulation.<sup>lxxxiii</sup> In spite of his father’s protective clause, Enoch outright sold several of the negroes which caused his son Alexander to file a suit in the court of chancery to reclaim them in 1808 after the former died.<sup>lxxxiv</sup>

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Robert Ashby’s appraised estate included an inventory containing articles expected among a tavern keeper’s possessions, including a pair of scales, a grater, a pestle, a funnel, sixteen chairs, two tables, six feather beds, five bedsteads and thirteen pounds of feathers to make more beds if needed. Kitchen furniture was distinguished alone in the list as an indication of the separate building. Ashby held eight negroes, and his sizeable livestock consisted of forty-nine hogs, twenty-eight cows, twenty-seven sheep and three horses. Nearly twice the number of beef and mutton, ham and bacon were the primary meats served in eighteenth-century taverns in addition to being chief in the southerner’s diet and would have been preserved in the extant stone meat house.<sup>lxxxv</sup>

Enoch Ashby appears to have continued farming on the plantation since the building of the existing threshing barn appears to have occurred between 1798 and 1799. Like the tavern, the well-built barn demonstrates typical English-type timber framing techniques, and the massive one-foot-thick ripped corner posts attest to the thrifty innovation of craftsmanship and sturdiness. Just before he died, Enoch entirely released all claim and interest he had in the “Tract of Land known by the name of Ashby’s Old Tavern,” composed of 121-½ acres to Alexander in 1806, being the part his grandfather intended for him. Since Alexander had established his residence in Culpeper County, he promptly sold Edward Shacklett the same-identified tavern property the next year.<sup>lxxxvi</sup>

**Shacklett’s Tavern**

Ashby’s tavern property was the first fee-simple land for Edward Shacklett who had leased a lot from John Marshall’s Oak Hill tract in 1793 where he was to build a twenty-four-by-sixteen-foot dwelling house and a thatched or boarded thirty-by-sixteen-foot barn. It may be that he was living on this leasehold earlier since his rent was to begin on the first of January in 1791.<sup>lxxxvii</sup> Therefore, Edward was fully aware of Robert Ashby’s Tavern since he lived in the neighborhood. Born in Fairfax County in 1758 to Benjamin and Catharine Shacklett of French descent, Edward was a resident of Surry County on the James River when he joined Capt. Nathaniel Burwell’s 1<sup>st</sup> Virginia Regiment of State Artillery where he achieved the rank of sergeant and colonel. Discharged in 1780, Colonel Shacklett married Elizabeth Rector, the daughter of Henry Rector and Mary Glascock of Rectortown in Fauquier County two years later. All but two of their fifteen children had been born between 1783 and 1805 by the time the family moved about a mile and a half north into Ashby’s tavern. Five of the children were of an age to have left home.<sup>lxxxviii</sup> It is known that daughter Anne, born in 1783, had married her cousin Thomas Rector before December 1799, and the twenty-year-old Mary wed William Hunton Hampton of Rockhill near The Plains in 1807. The 1810 census has Edward Shacklett as the head of a household of seven males and two females under the age of twenty six, and he held eleven slaves.<sup>lxxxix</sup> Counting his wife, his seven-room Goose Creek home would contain about the same number of family members as it had when Robert Ashby moved into the dwelling in 1760 or 1761.

No court documentation of ordinary license acquisition in the name of Edward Shacklett has surfaced, so it cannot be stated with absolute certainty that the tavern use continued by him until his death. Likewise, however, no court record has been found to show that Northumberland County tavern keeper John Hughlett, Sr. obtained a license for Hughlett’s Tavern within the same time period, as another indication that Virginia tavern laws were not uniformly enforced.<sup>xc</sup> Yet, several significant alterations to Shacklett’s house occurred in the beginning of the crossover period that a tavern function, combined with a large family, might influence.

Elucidating the documented evolution of the colonial ordinary in Virginia which transcended a one-and-one-half-story, country tavern into more spacious nineteenth-century accommodations, three porches were added to the dwelling and two interior rooms became one in circa 1808.<sup>xci</sup> A nearly four-foot-deep shelter was built to protect the

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south side service entrance to the outside kitchen, and most importantly, full-width porches were constructed on the front and back elevations. While it is true that porches were becoming popular on dwelling houses by the mid-eighteenth-century, earlier tavern keeper Robert Ashby had resisted the trend.<sup>xcii</sup> Nearly fifty years later, however, travel had greatly increased for business and pleasure on the improved roads, and the additional open sitting and

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sleeping areas provided quieter summertime comfort as they relieved overcrowding inside the tavern. Although a front porch on a vernacular, one-and-one-half-story, residential-type building in the first decade of the nineteenth century is significant, having another full-width in the rear is a distinctive achievement and likely associated with tavern keeping. Simultaneously, the partition and corner fireplaces in the south first-floor portion of the building were removed, creating a full-depth room which would allow for a much larger entertaining space. Shacklett's enlargement of his tavern's interior spaces was not uncommon, as architectural historian Willie Graham of Colonial Williamsburg found in his studies of the evolution of taverns in the early Chesapeake:

After 1750, a transformation of tavern design slowly evolved toward a distinct building type easily recognized by the traveler as a place for lodging and entertainment. Taverns were increasingly provided with large ballrooms or assembly rooms to accommodate grander and more formal entertainments than had once been common. Women were becoming more visible as guests, and with their male companions, required a more genteel environment in which to socialize. Though these specialized rooms were rare in 1750, by 1820, few taverns omitted them from their plans.<sup>xciii</sup>

Granted, there is evidence of an early chimney fire on several singled rafters at the south end of the tavern that could cause reconstruction and improvement. This event was followed by certain splicing of the upper portions of three rafters at both gable ends, when only the south showed minor charring. As Shacklett repaired fire damage on the south roof, he appears to have determined that Ashby's clipped gables had already or could potentially cause climatic water to pool onto improperly flashed wall and chimney meeting points which would rot weatherboards and framing. Thus, he chose a simpler, low-maintenance solution of a non-complex typical gable roof, thereby sacrificing design for function. Beyond the few rafters with slightly blackened tops, there is no other evidence of a burned girder, studs or sill within the walls of the second or first floors at the south end, so any fire damage had to be quickly contained at the wood-shingled roof. Any repair or alteration strictly for the residence of Edward Shacklett's family of twelve would more likely require partitioning of large rooms for more privacy rather than the demolition of a wall and two warming fireplaces for the resulting openness of a great south room to be heated by a single fireplace.

Finally, Edward changed the second-floor plan where Ashby had the stairs rising into a spacious fireplace-heated bedchamber on the north. A door from this chamber opened into a small front southeast bedchamber, and a door in its west wall opened into another small bedroom in the back. To enlarge the southeast sleeping area while still keeping a roomy north bedchamber, Shacklett moved the north wall of the southeast chamber to the north and extended it west to the back stairs which concurrently created a half center passage. New entrances into all three bedchambers were made from this half center hall. While the original architraves and paneled doors moved from their former openings within the south chambers, a board-and-batten door was placed in the vertical-board wall to the north bedchamber. The simplicity of the batten door and board wall suggests that Mr. Shacklett intended the larger heated room to be used by his family. Guests would sacrifice warmth for the more finely finished entrances into the south bedchambers where walls were also detailed with a chair rail. Through his modifications to the recognized hostelry, Edward Shacklett created that nicer and more "genteel environment" for the gentlewomen who were now "becoming more visible guests" in the early nineteenth century when social attitudes called for more privacy.<sup>xciv</sup>



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The year after Edward Shacklett died in 1826, his wife Elizabeth obtained the first of decades of nearly annual licenses for a house of private entertainment at the family's home. When she died in 1838, the court issued licenses to her sons Hezekiah or George Washington Shacklett, but it was daughter Catherine, better known as Kitty, who ran the tavern.<sup>xcv</sup> Women tavern keepers were not uncommon especially when widowed, and the supplementary income was even more relied upon without the husband managing the plantation. Certainly their cooking and

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homemaking skills made tavern keeping a logical occupation for Elizabeth and Catherine on the well-traveled road.<sup>xcvi</sup>

Furthering the trend toward privatization and isolation from other travelers, Kitty and Hezekiah added a porch chamber within the front and back porches, creating two new bedrooms in circa 1840 as the tavern evolved into a nineteenth-century inn. They also made a six-foot-four-inch by nine-foot-two-inch inside chamber with the insertion of a timber-framed and split-lathed partition at the southeast front of the house. This partition received a door for traffic into the still-ample back entertaining room, and a door was cut into the north side wall of this new small chamber to enable entry from the northeast room as well. These alterations eliminated the need for the original doorway between the north room and south entertainment room, so it was enclosed. The guests in the new front southeast chamber also had the benefit of the outside entrance on the south, being the former service door to the summer kitchen, dairy and meat house.

During the construction of the partition for the front six-by-nine-foot chamber, Kitty's brother, Benjamin Cook Shacklett inserted his business card for "Shacklett & White, Wholesale Dealers in Foreign & Domestic Dry Goods" in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, behind the door frame before the plasterer covered the cut-nailed split-lath. His partner was Thomas R. White. Pittsburgh business directories list B. C. Shacklett as a merchant of wholesale dry goods or as B. C. Shacklett & Company in the 1840s and in 1852. He did not retire and return to live at nearby Ashland until just before the Civil War. His thoughtful act to designate the alteration to the Shacklett period lends additional support to the circa 1840 date of the partition, judging by the architectural evidence of cut-nailed split lath rather than sawn lath which is more likely to be found after 1850 in this region. Apparently, Benjamin followed his nephew Wade Hampton, the son of his sister Mary Shacklett and her husband William Hunton Hampton, to Pittsburgh in the 1830s where Wade had become a wholesaler of dry goods in the growing mercantile trading city.<sup>xcvii</sup> After the deaths of their father in 1821 and mother Mary in 1828, five of the Hampton children moved into the family tavern for the next few years under the care of their Aunt Kitty. Mary's second son Robert Brown Hampton followed Wade to Pittsburgh where he later sided with the Union army. Captain Hampton led the Batty F Light Artillery Regiment Pennsylvania into the Battle of Chancellorsville, Virginia where he was killed in May of 1863.<sup>xcviii</sup> This must have been a time of great anguish and sadness for the Shacklett family in the south.

As one change often influences another, the south entrance to the outbuildings became obsolete for its original purpose to bring food into the dining or entertainment rooms with the addition of the six-by-nine-foot bedchamber. Thus, a new summer kitchen was needed off of the southwest rear corner of the tavern house which came to be known as the "near kitchen."<sup>xcix</sup> Easier access to this new outbuilding was made by relocating the southwest window on the back wall of the house to the left-south wall, west of the chimney, which had no openings originally. Then, a door was inserted in place of the back window. Its worn-down doorsill demonstrates that this new back entrance not only served the kitchen, but became the primary rear access into the main block instead of the center door which opened into the dark stair passage. While maintaining the tavern function, this alteration's two-fold intention separated traffic from the private bedchambers upstairs as it allowed expedient service from the near kitchen. Willie Graham's research in the Chesapeake again correlates with the changes seen here at Shacklett's Tavern in the Piedmont. He noted that such early-nineteenth-century alterations "gave these buildings a subtle but recognizable distinction from the dwellings of the same period. Multiple exterior entrances provid[ed] independent access to the public rooms and add[ed] privacy to the rest of the building."<sup>cc</sup> Finally within this 1840 campaign of updating the former colonial ordinary, the Shackletts relocated the window at the southeast corner of the rear wall to

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the north side elevation, northeast corner. Radical indeed, but with the infilling of the original door into the period-one back chamber from the front north room, another entrance was needed from the porch chamber. This effectively created a two-room private quarter, heated by the corner fireplace in the original back chamber and was likely made for the use of the residing family.

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The state's commitment to improve the internal transportation network including turnpike and railroad construction as well as social trends in the antebellum period maintained the popularity of the house of private entertainment. Ninety-one years after construction, its prominent location remained advantageous since Shacklett's Tavern stood within walking distance of the newly designated Piedmont Station Depot for the Orange and Alexandria line. Passengers surely found the certain hospitality there convenient. On his map of 1851 for the Manassas Gap Railroad, John Goldsborough clearly showed "Shacklett's Tavern" side-gabled to the Winchester Road and also placed two unidentified buildings at the present-day entrance into the property off of the Gap Road.<sup>ci</sup>

Benefiting from the pinnacle of popularity of the medicinal baths at Capon Springs and several others in West Virginia, Shacklett's Tavern was still providing necessary respite for those on long journeys in the third quarter of the nineteenth century and early reconstruction period. Porte Crayon and his cousins were among the health-seeking in 1853, having stayed two nights at Fauquier White Sulphur Springs to rest their horses before the lengthy passage over Ashby's Gap. Quite content with their lodging there, he did not expect to find any better accommodations as they traveled toward the Blue Ridge. On the contrary, the party made it to the Crooked Run Valley and the corner of the Manassas Gap Road where they needed one more layover before crossing the mountains. More infamously known as the mean-spirited Yankee David Hunter Strother during the Civil War, the very talented artist assumed the pseudonym of Porte Crayon for his brilliantly accurate documentary sketches of the countryside that made him famous in *Harper's Weekly*. Already accomplished in 1853, Crayon's trip to the Virginia Canaan with his cousins was later reported in *Virginia Illustrated* with his compilation of resulting drawings. Of this particular stop at Shacklett's Tavern, the following was reported:

Warrenton, the county town of Fauquier, is six miles distant from the Springs, and from this place our travelers pursued the road toward Ashby's Gap, in the Blue Ridge. Miss Katy Shackley's quaint, old-fashioned cottage received them that night, and so much pleased were they with their entertainment, that our artist resolved not to leave without carrying with him some reminiscence of the place. Accordingly, next morning, he climbed upon a gate-post and made a sketch of the premises – a proceeding which seemed very greatly to mystify a turkey-gobbler and a negro boy at the woodpile.<sup>cii</sup>

Considering his itinerary, Crayon made a remarkably detailed rendering of the tavern, meat house, dairy and kitchens within their dooryard setting, shown encircled by a pail fence, complete with a gaggle of turkeys, roaming chickens, a waiting carriage and arriving women guests. Drawn facing northwest, a negro mother and child are standing outside the off-center door of the one-and-one-half-story, side-gabled kitchen which had a central interior chimney. The nearer gable-fronting kitchen can be seen behind the tavern. The hipped-roof, two-sided shelter protecting the south door into the tavern is weatherboarded on the front and joining a two-bay porch chamber which has a flue chimney. Crayon even drew the one extant original six-over-nine window under the two-bay open porch that had a saw-tooth jigsawn cornice at the north end. The artist caught the flared eaves of the full-width porch even at its enclosed south end in this important documentation in time. Remarkably little has changed from this view except for the loss of the first kitchen, the full enclosure of the south side shelter, the removal of the porch chamber with its flue chimney and the jigsawn cornice which would not have been original to the house.

During the Civil War, engineer J. Francis Gilmer used the tavern as a landmark on his map of upper Fauquier, noting it as "Miss Kitty Shacklett's," as all of her neighbors in the Piedmont community fondly referred to the establishment.<sup>ciii</sup> Still a major thoroughfare to the Shenandoah Valley and called the Winchester or Piedmont-to-

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Paris Road since the building of the railroad at Piedmont Station (now Delaplane), the passage was heavily traveled by Confederate and Federal troops. The neighborhood was kept on edge by the activity and sound of distant skirmishes, while soldiers took advantage of their fields for encampments and strategic planning. In June of 1863, two of the Confederate army's most notorious leaders were at Shacklett's Tavern as Gen. J. E. B. Stuart prepared for Gettysburg. Shortly after officially forming his Rangers at Rector's Cross Roads, John S. Mosby went searching

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for Stuart and found "his tent was in Miss Kitty Shacklett's front yard near the roadside [where] he greeted me cordially . . . he was in his usual gay humor . . . after we talked over the situation it was arranged for me to meet him at Middleburg in the afternoon."<sup>civ</sup> First, however, Mosby gave the general a sturdier horse that he had seized from a Michigan lieutenant. This was not the only time Miss Kitty would welcome Confederate officers onto her property, as Fielding Lewis Marshall of nearby Ivanhoe recalled CSA Gen. Bradley Johnson's arrival in July of 1861:

At Shacklett's Tavern, a roadside inn, before the Revolution, on the main road from Winchester to Fredericksburg, via Warrenton, Miss Kitty Shacklett and her Brother 'Kiah – an old maid and an old bachelor – lived and died. (Here you may see the room Lord Fairfax occupied.) On the day of First Manassas, when Johnson's rear guard were on the march, and, hungry and thirsty, stopped near this ancient and famed hostelry to refresh their dry and hungry throats -- all day Miss Kitty cooked for them, officers and men alike. And when, refreshed, they offered her gold in pay, her reply was 'Go fight! I won't have your gold!' On another occasion, she signaled from her upper window (at the risk of her life – for the Yankees had surrounded and swarmed into her house) to some of Mosby's men at 'Ashleigh' that they were in danger. They thus escaped capture or death.

Her brother, 'Kiah, suffered severe treatment from the Yankees, when he refused to take the Oath of Allegiance to the United States. They took him out with a rope around his neck and drew him to a tree. He still resisted, and they desisted; but poor 'Kiah never rallied from the shock, but died a few years thereafter [in 1868].<sup>cv</sup>

Enraged by Mosby's harassment of the Federals and his loyal countrymen who provided a safe haven for him and his men in order to prevent their capture, Union General Sheridan ordered the destruction of agricultural subsistence, the burning of all barns and mills and the driving of livestock from the Shenandoah to the Bull Run Mountains. Many owners in the Crooked Run Valley suffered the loss of slaughtered or stolen livestock, burned crops and outbuildings including the barn at Belle Grove and Summerset's stable and meat house. The homes of Mary Ambler and Andrew Chunn burned to the ground. However, the Ashby-Shacklett threshing barn remarkably survived, apparently unscathed.<sup>cvi</sup> This is amazing considering Kitty's documented assistance to Mosby and the Confederate cause, and the Shackletts being "the most uncompromising Southrons."<sup>cvi</sup> Yet, Miss Kitty's certain devotion to God may have put the fear of higher retribution in the minds of the Union soldiers.

Kitty's nephew, Turner Washington Shacklett (1848-1932) recalled that his aunt took in the seven children of her brother William who had died with his wife in Missouri at an unknown date. He noted that "most of them married and swarmed out of the hive, but 'Cousin Bettie' remained to the last, and was the mainstay and manager of the institution to the great comfort and relief of 'Aunt Kittie.'"<sup>cvi</sup> A frequent visitor at his ancestral home until after the Civil War, Turner further recollected at length, while offering valuable insight into the people, activities and buildings:

'Aunt Kitty' was in many ways a remarkable woman. No 'frills' about her! Not on your life! No plaiting of the hair, or putting on of gold or costly apparel (as the Methodist Discipline says) and her quaker bonnet of drab silk was her conventional headgear for Sundays and on State occasions, with dressing which appropriately went along with it!

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There were 'slaves' on the place, whose names I now recall! 'Uncle Dick Johnson' who was the coachman, and expert driver of horses, whose handling of the six or eight horses, with a single line, attached to the great Conestoga wagon, was dexterity personified; his wife 'Aunt Judy', who was the terror of us youngsters, 'Ann', a comely daughter, who did the most of the cooking; 'Mary' and

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'Beck' – her children, (husband unknown!) while old 'Uncle Daniel' and 'Uncle Hanson Carey' were notable figures commanding our respect and veneration. There was no ill-treatment of these poor souls, on that plantation, I can tell you!

Showing further the heroic mould in which 'Aunt Kittie' was cast, let me cite that after the sheep were sheared, she would send the wool to the carding mill where it was made into rolls, and when brought back to 'Yew Hill', she, herself, in the 'Far Kitchen', would get out the great, old spinning wheel, and run that humming and buzzing creature until she had spun it into yarn, then she would reel it off into skeins, on another machine, which, I remember, clicked when there was enough in the skein; then she would dye this yarn of various hues, when the great loom would be set up in the 'Near Kitchen', and she would put in the warp and woof, throw the shuttle and weave out a lovely pattern of linsey Woolsey which she had designed, and thus the servants would have their winter clothing! Can you beat it?

As a gardener, too, she was most proficient, and with sheep-skin mittens, of her own tanning and making, hoe in hand, she spent a great part of her time out in the garden . . . she would give the word when the first peas, corn, or potatoes could be counted on for the table!

Religious, did I say? Yes, verily, and to her hospitable roof the 'Circuit Rider' was only too glad to come, for he well knew that he would not only receive a hearty welcome, but that his underfed body would there find a bounteous replenishment from the good things with which her table fairly groaned!

How vividly as a youngster do I remember the dining room! I was always hungry, and no sound on the place was more melodious to my ears than the big bell that sounded for the meals, or the conch shell so skillfully and sonorously manipulated by Uncle 'Kiah, who was a master hand at such performances. The whole atmosphere of the room was permeated by the delicious odor emanating from the large cake box under the long-legged sideboard, which was one of those old-time affairs made of tin, and perforated from the inside in the form of stars, etc., to afford ventilation, and it was there the fine 'Black Cake', cookies and other goodies made by the deft hands of 'Cousin Bettie' were stored . . . Over the long table, in the summer, were suspended several semi-circular affairs, made of boards and covered with wall paper of fancy design, at the bottom of which was a fringe of paper, and this series of fly disturbers was connected up and manipulated by a colored boy or girl who stood back of the mistress of the house, or in the absence of such mechanical devices, the dusky one waved a gorgeous bunch of peacock feathers to keep off the flies – there were no such things as wire screens in those days. . .

All of the supplies for the table were prepared in the 'Near Kitchen' in the winter, and were handed through a rather small opening in the wall, while the cooking, generally, in the summer when Aunt Kitty would have her loom set up, was done in the 'Far Kitchen', -- both, however, adjoining each other.<sup>cix</sup>

In this context, Turner's use of the word "adjoining" must mean lying next to and not connected, since Porte Crayon's drawing clearly has broad space between the buildings. The small opening that Turner indicated the foods

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were handed through was the narrow alley between the near kitchen and the dwelling which is shown as a covered breezeway in an early twentieth-century photograph. Apparently by the pre-war date of his recollection, the family had assigned the property the name of Yew Hill. As for coachman Uncle Dick Johnson and Aunt Judy who lovingly terrorized the youngsters, both fondly-mentioned slaves appear as living within the household of Catharine Shacklett in the 1870 census. Laborer Richard Johnson at age fifty-six is a year older than his domestic servant wife Judy that year.<sup>cx</sup> Turner's report has demonstrated the agricultural subsistence on the plantation where laborers sheared the

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wool from the sheep for the market and for Kitty to thriftily spin and weave into clothing for the servants. The 1850 agricultural census taker counted only ten sheep yielding fifty pounds of wool, twenty-three swine and thirty-one head of cattle on the Shacklett plantation, with Indian corn being the largest vegetable crop. Swine outnumbered the sixteen sheep and cows in 1860, but the wool production doubled, corn still dominated Irish potatoes, and the not-listed peas must have been relegated to Kitty's garden plots. The fields were cultivated in wheat, rye, oats and hay. For non-Methodists, a circuit rider was a minister appointed and assigned a geographical area containing two or more churches by the bishop in the nineteenth century. This pastor rode on horseback within that circuit to visit each church in his charge at least once annually and would often stop and preach anywhere along the way.<sup>cx</sup> Turner continued his prose on the agricultural lifestyle:

In those early days there were none of the modern accessories for lightening the drudgery of the farm, and the hay crop and the wheat harvest were toilsomely cut by hand . . . 'Yew Hill', in those days, was a prohibition palace, and Aunt Kitty's antipathy to John Barleycorn was known far and wide, so that in the harvest season there would be sent out to the thirsty reapers a great pail full of what she called 'Beverage', which was a concoction of molasses, vinegar, ice water and nutmeg, and this was quaffed as if it were the nectar of the Gods!

Hog killing, too was another great event on the farm, even greater than harvest time. When the cold nights of November were in sight, preparations were made, chief among which was the erection of a pile of logs and old fence rails among which were strewn rocks and stones, and this was to be fired to heat the stone, and these were put in a hogs-head, placed at an angle of 45 degrees, opening out onto a platform of fence rails, -- a piece of rag carpet keeping the heat in. What a thrill it was when we boys looked out of the window and saw the pyre had been lighted! Then when the rocks were red-hot, and with grappling hooks, were put in the hog'shead until the water was boiling hot, the work of 'butchering' began . . .

He [Uncle 'Kiah], it was, I think, who also 'cut up the meat' into hams, middlings, etc., which were stored in the stone meat house in the yard, one-half of the building being the pantry, or storeroom, wherein all manner of supplies were kept, including home remedies, such as 'Elecampagne', a stalwart concoction from that plant, for colds and coughs. The wonderful agreeable odors of that place still live in my memory . . .

The water had to be taken from the flowing spring which was situated across the road, from which the thirsty passerby was always wont to quench his thirst . . . a long-handled gourd (of a crop that was grown in the garden for this very purpose) . . . The hospitality of 'Yew Hill' was unbounded, as was general in Old Virginia. There was no such thing as social indebtedness, or 'I. O. U.'s'. The 'Latch String' was always out. It was come and come again.<sup>cxii</sup>

One can only assume that Kitty's described aversion to drunkenness extended beyond her family and laborers to the guests lodging at her house of private entertainment, for her nephew did not touch on business in his family recollections. In September of 1870, his devoutly religious aunt gave the trustees of the Cool Spring Methodist Church thirty-nine perches of land to build a house of worship for the use of the members, although the deed

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suggests that the property already had a building because the word appurtenances was unusually underlined.<sup>cxiii</sup> In fact, Amanda Edmonds wrote in her diary on the 19<sup>th</sup> of July 1857 that she was off to the dedication of the new church at Cool Spring.<sup>cxiv</sup> This was a logical place for the church to be constructed, as Kitty's parents and brother Hezekiah were lying at rest in the family cemetery on this southwest portion of the tavern plantation, and this conveyance would assure protection and expansion of the graveyard. Much later, her nephew Turner would erect a stone wall around the "old burial ground" of the family of Yew Hill which distinguished the beloved ancestors from

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their descendants laid to rest throughout the later churchyard.<sup>cxv</sup> When Catharine Kitty Shacklett died "of paralysis" at Yew Hill at the age of eighty-seven on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August 1879, her obituary informed that "her house was for many years the favorite inn for travelers en route to Capon Springs."<sup>cxvi</sup> Established by the mid-eighteenth century, the warm mineral springs in West Virginia most likely drew many an overnight guest into the earlier Robert Ashby's Tavern as well.<sup>cxvii</sup> Now, however, the largely unbroken duration of Robert Ashby's colonial ordinary to Shacklett's nineteenth-century house of private entertainment and roadside inn would endure no more.

Kitty willed all of her estate to her beloved niece Elizabeth (Bettie) Shacklett who cousin Turner had fondly called the mainstay and manager of the institution. She, however, apparently missed the love of her family and moved to Harrisonburg to be with her Uncle Samuel Shacklett, who owned a mercantile there. Therefore, Bettie quickly sold the old home place. In 1880, George W. Chancellor and his wife Julia Herndon bought the 141-½-acre "Yew Hill" property.<sup>cxviii</sup> Changing the name to Sunny Bank, the Chancellors remained at Yew Hill for thirty-four years, as locals designated the landmark intersection Chancellor's Corner. However, neither name persevered. Capt. John Turner Ashby, Sr., fifth generation descendant of Robert Ashby, acquired his ancestor's home in 1915. Married to Louisa Anna Herndon, the sister of the newly-widowed Julia Herndon Chancellor, "Jule" remained in residence with the new owners and influenced the enclosure of the south service porch for a sun or sitting room for her six-by-nine-foot front bedchamber in circa 1920.<sup>cxix</sup>

John Turner Ashby was born in 1841 at Oakwood on Pleasant Vale Road about two miles north of Yew Hill. Assigned to Col. Eppa Hunton's Company B of the Eighth Virginia Infantry, Capt. John Turner Ashby was considered "one of the stalwart survivors of the great war between the states," having been seriously wounded in action twice.<sup>cxx</sup> He fought in the Battle of First Manassas without incident, but received a miniature ball in front of his right ear during the Battle of Seven Pines in 1862. After surgery and a month of rest, Ashby returned to fight in the Second Manassas, followed by Antietam and Fredericksburg where he received his lieutenant's commission. Lieutenant Ashby's next major campaign was at Gettysburg. A musket entered his left shoulder at Sutherland Station in Petersburg where his bravery earned him another promotion. Captured pushing Warren's Federals back in Northern Virginia in March of 1865, Captain Ashby served out the last days of the war in prison.<sup>cxxi</sup>

This second Captain Ashby to own Yew Hill returned to Oakwood temporarily after the war and then farmed in Bedford County before deciding to purchase the old family tavern. He is to be commended for sensitively enclosing the rear porch for bedrooms without removing or compromising its rafters or any weatherboard on the backside of the colonial house. Captain Ashby also changed the small southwest back chamber into a bathroom. The gentleman farmer raised chickens, feeding them outside the dairy and meat house where their feed was stored, and he cut hay with a two-horse-drawn, two-wheeled mower through the fields. When visiting her grandparents every summer, Louise Ashby Leachman enjoyed walking "down to the icehouse to dig ice out of the straw to cool tea with my uncle, J. T. Ashby, Jr. . . . When we threshed wheat, mama and Aunt Sallie had to cook big meals to feed all the hands. Aunt Sallie and I would walk to the Delaplane store and take eggs to exchange for sugar, flour or something."<sup>cxxii</sup>

John T. Ashby, Jr. assumed responsibility for Yew Hill after his father died in 1928, his mother having predeceased him. Marrying Miriam Haden the next year, they moved with daughters Louise and Polly to Albemarle County, where Elinor was born, and sold Yew Hill to R. C. and Lucy Iden in 1935. The Idens lived near Upperville and

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rented Yew Hill as shown by a 1947 plat of the land made for a right of way to carry power lines through the property. The Shenandoah-Winchester Road/Route 17 was moved east in 1934 with the southwestern corner of Yew Hill being taken to make a connecting 'Y' for the former Manassas Gap Road, now Route 55 intersection. This connection is indicated on the 1947 plat along with a straight-in driveway from Route 17 to the tenanted dwelling. However, the present-day entrance from Route 55 was created in the 1960s when Clara S. and John B. McCarty owned the property, and the road engineers removed the 'Y', replacing it with a stop sign. Thus, the

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archaeological integrity of the corner where Goldsborough showed buildings in 1851 has been greatly compromised by several road alterations.<sup>cxixiii</sup>

The McCartys also leased Yew Hill to tenants, and the dwelling became a commercial enterprise again with an antique shop briefly that did not cause alterations. John B. McCarty, Jr. did make the former tavern his residence for several years after his mother gave him the 100-acre tract in 1959. Successful northern Virginia businessman, Allen J. Richards and his wife Jennifer immediately recognized the historic and architectural value of the colonial ordinary and purchased the property in 2001.<sup>cxixiv</sup> Enthusiastic about the discoveries made during the recent research and analysis, the Richards are contemplating cautiously removing the twentieth-century alterations and restoring the house to Robert Ashby's Tavern period, while retaining important compatible characteristics of Shacklett's Tavern. Preservation of original materials and workmanship will be a priority in accordance to the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*. Plans include maintenance of the stone meat house, dairy and the frame threshing barn and may involve reconstruction of the springhouse. Ultimately, Mrs. Richards envisions resurrecting the house of private entertainment, traditionally speaking, by gaining county zoning permission for a bed and breakfast to again welcome travelers and overnight guests to this famed historic landmark. Certainly, a century of historic precedence shall prevail.

In memory of John Kenneth Gott, historian, author and friend.

ENDNOTES

<sup>cxixi</sup>Edward R. Cook, PhD, and William J. Callahan, "Tree-Ring Dating of Yew Hill, Fauquier County, Virginia, May 2003," 3--8.

<sup>cxixii</sup>Ibid.; David Edwards, Director of the Winchester Regional Office of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources <DEdwards@dhr.state.va.us> to Cheryl Shepherd <CHERYLSHEPHERD24@aol.com> "RE: Earliest barn in region" [in response to personal email] (22 April 2003).

<sup>cxixiii</sup>Northern Neck Grant Book E, page 494, Thomas Lord Fairfax to Thomas Ashby a tract of waste land in Prince William County lying across the Road to Shenandoah and between the lines of Charles Taylor and Captain James Ball on Goose Creek, 4 August 1742.

<sup>cxixiv</sup>Northern Neck Grant Book E, page 474, John Warner, Surveyor, plat of Thomas Ashby's 320 acres on Goose Creek. Benjamin Ashby and James Welch were chainmen, and Thomas Ashby was the pilot, 21 May 1741; Benjamin Winslow, Survey Book 1736 October 12 - December 14 Field Notes, Mss11:3 W7326:1, Richmond: Virginia Historical Society. Thomas Ashby is on the "A List of Men Assisting on the Survey of the Potomack for the Honorable Thomas Lord Fairfax" with Surveyors Benjamin Winslow and John Savage from October 5 -18, 1736 having deserted early because he refused to continue on tough terrain without his horse. He was also paid for the hire of his horses; Stuart E. Brown, Jr., *Virginia Baron; The Story of Thomas 6<sup>th</sup> Lord Fairfax* (Berryville, Virginia: Chesapeake Book Company, 1965), 83-84.

<sup>cxixv</sup>Frederick County Will Book 2, page 53, Last Will and Testament of Thomas Ashby, 2 April 1752, proved 4 August 1752; Donald Jackson, ed. and Dorothy Twohig, associate ed., "A Journal of my Journey over the Mountains began Fryday the 11<sup>th</sup>. of March 1747/8," *The Diaries of George Washington, The Papers of George Washington*, vol. 1 (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1976), 6; Lee Fleming Reese, M. A., *The Ashby Book; Descendants of Captain Thomas Ashby of Virginia* (San Diego, California: Lee Fleming Reese, 1976), 1-5, 293; Joan W. Peters, *The Tax Man Cometh; Land & Property in Colonial Fauquier County, Virginia: Tax Lists from the Fauquier County Court Clerk's Loose Papers, 1759-1782* (Westminster, Maryland: Willow Bend Books, 1999), 4.

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<sup>xxvi</sup>Fauquier County Deed Book 1, page 78, Benjamin Ashby and wife Harriet of Fauquier to Robert Ashby of same, lease of 50 acres being a portion of Thomas Ashby's patent of 320 acres on Goose Creek, 19 November 1759, recorded 22 May 1760; Fauquier County Deed Book 1, page 80, Benjamin Ashby and wife Harriet of Fauquier to Robert Ashby of same, release of 50 acres as surveyed in Deed Book 1, page 78 to fee simple, 19 November 1759, recorded 22 May 1760; Fauquier County Deed Book 7, page 70, Benjamin Ashby and wife Hannah of Hampshire County to Francis Ash of Fauquier, 374 acres whereon the said Ash now lives being the remaining part of a tract of land formerly granted by patent to Thomas Ashby in 1742 on Crooked Run and Goose Creek, 22 November 1777, recorded 23 March 1778; Norman L. Baker, *Valley of the Crooked Run: The History of a Frontier Road* (Delaplane, Virginia: Norman L. Baker, 2002), 28.

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<sup>xxvii</sup>Fauquier County Deed Book 1, page 62, William Ransdell and wife Mary of Hamilton Parish in Fauquier County to Robert Ashby of the same, farm let of 200 acres being a portion of a larger tract purchased by Wharton Ransdell from the executors of Charles Burgess, deceased, 23 March 1759, recorded 27 March 1760; Prince William County Court Order Book 1755-1757, page 257, Robert Ashby Ordinary License, 23 November 1756; "Alphabetical Poll for Frederick County, Taken the 24<sup>th</sup> Day of July 1758," and "Election of George Washington 1758 for the House of Burgesses, Term Extending 1758-1765," *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, vol. 6 (Richmond: Virginia Historical Society, 1899), 163.

<sup>xxviii</sup>B. Curtis Chappelle, *Maps and Notes of Upper Fauquier County, Virginia* (Warrenton, Virginia: Warrenton Antiquarian Society, 1954), 72. Although he printed John Ashby's entire deposition and names of persons involved (Joseph Carr, Charles Carter and a Mr. Violet) in the chancery suit filed in Loudoun County, he did not provide the title.

<sup>xxix</sup>Fairfax Harrison, *Landmarks of Old Prince William* (Richmond, Virginia: Old Dominion Press, 1924, Reprint, Baltimore, Maryland: Gateway Press, Inc., 1987), 466.

<sup>xxx</sup>Baker, 2-21; Harrison, 467-474; Jeremy Francis Gilmer Collection, "Map of Fauquier, 1863," Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, Virginia; James C. Mackay, III, "The Development of Early Taverns in Alexandria," *Historic Alexandria Quarterly* (Fall 2000) : 3.

<sup>xxxi</sup>Richard W. Stephenson and Marianne M. McKee, eds., *Virginia In Maps* (Richmond, Virginia: Library of Virginia, 2000), 83.

<sup>xxxii</sup>Prince William County Court Order Book 1752-1753, page 168, Thomas Watts Ordinary License, 26 June 1753; George Washington, Papers, 1741-1799: Series 2 Letter Books, "Letters, Orders and Instructions. October 1755.-215. Given under my hand this 6<sup>th</sup> of October, -1755 G. W. 6<sup>th</sup> Orders to the Ordinary Keepers on Captain Woodward's Route to Fort Cumberland You are hereby ordered and strictly required to make proper provisions of meat, bread, &c for sixty men one day; they will be at your House on the \_\_\_ day of October on their march to Fort Cumberland and I will see you paid a reasonable allowance. Friday: October 6<sup>th</sup> 1755. G. W. A Copy of the above sent to Mr. Picket, Martin Harder, Joseph Nevil, Watts and the River," Letterbook 1, Image 215 of 313, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.

<sup>xxxiii</sup>Kym S. Rice, *Early American Taverns: For the Entertainment of Friends and Strangers* (Chicago, Illinois: Regnery Gateway for the Fraunces Tavern Museum, 1983), 47. Mr. Fisher's journal, "Narrative of Daniel Fisher," is within volume 2 of *Some Prominent Virginia Families* by Louise Pecquet du Bellet. Unfortunately, he did not travel on the Shenandoah Road.

<sup>xxxiv</sup>Fauquier County Clerk's Loose Papers, Ordinaries, Box 1, 1759-001 to 1808-002, Box 2, 1809-001 to 1815-004, Box 3, 1816-001 to 1827-001, Box 4, 1828-001 to 1850-001; Prince William County Court Order Book 1752-1753, page 77, 115, 123, *Robert Ashby, Plaintiff vs. James Bailey, Defendant*, 29 May 1754, 25 June 1754, 22 July 1754; Fauquier County Will Book 1, page 147, Thomas Watts, deceased, Inventory, 23 July 1769, recorded 28 August 1769.

<sup>xxxv</sup>Stephenson and McKee, 93; Eugene M. Scheel, Map of Fauquier County, Commonwealth of Virginia (Warrenton, Virginia: The Fauquier Bank, 1996); H. C. Groome, *Fauquier During the Proprietorship* (Richmond, Virginia, 1927, Reprint, Baltimore, Maryland: Clearfield Company, Inc. for Genealogical Publishing Company, Inc., 1989), 205-06; Harrison, 493-94, 516; T. Triplett Russell and John K. Gott, *Fauquier County in the Revolution* (Westminster, Maryland: Willow Bend Books, 1977), 9; Fauquier County Bicentennial Committee, *Fauquier County Virginia 1759-1959* (Warrenton, Virginia: Virginia Publishing, Incorporated, 1959), 45-46; Fauquier County Court Minute Book 1759-1762, page 49, John Wood was appointed surveyor of the road from Watts to the head of Goose Creek, 27 March 1760; Fauquier County Court Minute Book 1759-1762, page 91, John Wood was appointed surveyor from Thomas Watts's to the top of the ridge on the Manassas Road; Fauquier County Court Minute Book 1759-1762, page 192, "The Persons appointed to view the road from Thomas Watts to the top of the ridge called Manassas Gap returned their report and it is ordered that the road be continued as formerly," 7 August 1761; Cook and Callahan, May 2003.

<sup>xxxvi</sup>Porte Crayon, "Private Entertainment Kitty Shacklett's House," November 1853, *Virginia Illustrated: Containing a Visit to the Virginian Canaan* (New York: Harper & Brothers Publishers, 1871), 266-7. When posthole digging for a new plank fence and gate at his entrance from John Marshall Highway, formerly Manassas Gap Road, current owner Allen Richards also brought up many sherds of glass and nineteenth-century salt glaze pottery, but no archaeological investigation has occurred. It should be noted that colored glass is expected along a highway, and VDOT's road work has likely damaged the integrity of the site.



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<sup>xxxvii</sup>Fauquier County Court Minute Book 1759-1762, page 127, Thomas Watts is appointed surveyor of the road in the room of David Barton and it is ordered that he with the tithables belonging to said road do clear and keep the same in repair according to law, 26 February 1761; Fauquier County Clerk's Loose Papers, Road Series, Box 1, 1764-004, on the motion of Thomas Marshall Gent, it is ordered that James Davis, Benjamin Wood, Thomas Watts & William Hill or any three of them being first sworn do view Manassas run road & the way the same is proposed to be altered by the said Marshall and report thereof to the court, April 1764.

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<sup>xxxviii</sup>William Armstrong Crozier, *Virginia Colonial Militia, 1651-1776* (Richmond, Virginia: Southern Book Company, 1905) through Ancestry.com. Robert Ashby was appointed to the militia on 27 September 1759 and 26 June 1761; Reese, 87-88, 304. Robert Ashby's children were John, Nimrod, Benjamin, Enoch, Ann, Winifred, Mary (Molly or Polly) and William.

<sup>xxxix</sup>Jackson and Twohig, eds., Washington's Journal of my Journey, 1-2.

<sup>xl</sup>Depositions of Robert Ashby and Thomas Lord Fairfax taken 31 March 1762 in *Proprietors vs. Peter Wolfe*, Box 2, Folder 63, Fairfax Family Northern Neck Proprietary Papers 1688-1810, Collection 24062, Richmond: Library of Virginia; Reese, 93.

<sup>xli</sup>Fauquier County Court Minute Book 1759-1762, page 51, License granted to Robert Ashby to keep an ordinary at his house, 27 March 1760; William Waller Hening, ed., "An Act for regulating Ordinaries, and restraint of Tipling Houses," *The Statutes at Large*, Vol. 6: 72, (Richmond, Virginia: Franklin Press, 1819); Ashby Papers, Private collection of Donald L. Ashby, South Riding, Virginia.

<sup>xlii</sup>Fauquier County Court Minute Book 1759-1762, page 48, The court sets the rates and prices for liquor for ordinary keepers for the forthcoming year, 27 March 1760.

<sup>xliii</sup>Fauquier County Court Minute Book 1759-1762, page 295, Robert Ashby is granted a license to keep an ordinary and pays the bond, July 1762; Fauquier County Court Minute Book 1763-1764, page 35, Robert Ashby is granted a license to keep an ordinary at his house and pays the bond, April 1763; Fauquier County Court Minute Book 1768-1773, page 182, Robert Ashby is granted a license to keep an ordinary at his house and pays the bond, April 1770; Fauquier County Clerk's Loose Papers, Ordinaries, Box 1, 1807-001, Presentments – Liquor License Suits, We present Robert Ashby for retailing spirituous liquors at his house in Fauquier County to be drank where sold without a license within six months last past known by two of our body, June-November 1807; Fauquier County Clerk's Loose Papers, Ordinaries, Box 2, 1809-005, Jury presentment of Robert Ashby for retailing spirituous liquors without a license to be drank where sold within six months last past known by two of our body, Court 1809; Fauquier County Clerk's Loose Papers, Ordinaries, Box 2, 1810-001, Jury presentment of Robert Ashby for retaining spirituous liquors without a license to be drank where sold within six months last, 27 August 1810, 5 September 1810, 1 December 1810; Fauquier County Clerk's Loose Papers, Ordinaries, Box 2, 1812-001, summons to bring Robert Ashby to court for retailing spirituous liquors without a license, 1 August 1812.

<sup>xliv</sup>Cook and Callahan, 6; Dendrochronologist Bill Callahan, <engcal@snip.net> "Re: physical evidence of storage," email to Cheryl Shepherd <CHERYLSHEPHERD24@aol.com>, 31 May 2003.

<sup>xlv</sup>Elinor Ashby Burchard to Donald Ashby, 13 August 1999 and 8 November 2000, Ashby Papers, Donald Ashby Collection; Donald Ashby DONLASHBY@aol.com to Cheryl Shepherd <CHERYLSHEPHERD24@aol.com> "Here is the article I mentioned. I typed it from her notes," 19 November 2003. Mr. Ashby is referring to the handwritten childhood memories of Louise Ashby Leachman Via who died at the age of ninety seven in December of 2001 and was the granddaughter of John Turner Ashby, Sr.; Elinor Burchard <burchard@montrose.net> to Cheryl Shepherd <CHERYLSHEPHERD24@aol.com> "Life at Yew Hill," 12 May 2004.

<sup>xlvi</sup>Mike Klein and Josh Duncan, "Archaeological Survey of The John Marshall Property, Fauquier County, Virginia," prepared for the Friends of The Hollow, Inc. (Fredericksburg, Virginia: Center for Historic Preservation, Mary Washington College, 2003), 20; Cheryl Hanback Shepherd, "The Hollow" National Register Nomination VDHR File No. 030-0803 (Richmond: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 19 June 2003), 8:14.

<sup>xlvii</sup>William J. Callahan and Dr. Edward R. Cook, "Tree-Ring Dating of the Hollow House, Markham, Fauquier County, Virginia," Wyndmoor, Pennsylvania, November 2002; Herman J. Heikkinen, "Final Report. The Last Year of Tree Growth for Selected Timbers Within 'The Hollow' As Derived by Key-Year Dendrochronology," Blacksburg, Virginia: Dendrochronology, Inc., July 1996; Herman J. Heikkinen, "The Last Year of Tree Growth for Selected Timbers Within Glenmore As Derived By Key-Year Dendrochronology," Blacksburg, Virginia: Dendrochronology, Inc., May 1998. Heikkinen dated the Glenmore House in Upperville to 1798, the stone barn to 1805 and two tenant houses on the property to 1812 and 1828; Debra A McClane, "Crooked Run Valley Rural Historic District" National Register Nomination, VDHR File No. 030-5369, 24 November 2003.

<sup>xlviii</sup>Marcus Whiffen, *The Eighteenth-Century Houses of Williamsburg* (Williamsburg, Virginia: The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, 1960; revised ed., Williamsburg, Virginia: The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, 1984), 95, 147.

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<sup>xlix</sup>Thomas Tileston Waterman, *The Mansions of Virginia* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1945), 74-75; Dell Upton, *Holy Things and Profane: Anglican Churches in Colonial Virginia* (New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University Press, 1986), 69; Paul Buchanan, *Stratford Hall and Other Architectural Studies* (Stratford, Virginia: Robert E. Lee Memorial Association, Inc., 1998), 54-55.

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<sup>i</sup>Shepherd, 8:15-16. Since the nomination, in March of 2004, the author documented the dismantling of the west-end stone chimney which was heavily leaning into the house beginning four feet from the ground and at the stack twenty-six-and-one-half inches, which was threatening to push the house down, during a stabilization effort. Stonemason Edward Ashby slowly dismantled the chimney for the documentation and to further investigate whether there was an earlier firebox in the infilled chimney and found the definition to support the hearth framing. This is significant because the flue divider had fallen to the first floor, leaving him to have doubts about the execution of the fireplace prior to this final evidence.

<sup>li</sup>Thomas Tileston Waterman, *The Dwellings of Colonial America* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1950), 31; Whiffen, 71.

<sup>lii</sup>T. A. Fransioli, Jr., "Oak Hill The J'n Marshall H'se, Marshall VA," Survey No. 11-5, Drawing 1 of 34, Historic American Buildings Survey, Washington, D. C.: Library of Congress.

<sup>liii</sup>Fauquier County Deed Book 2, page 355, Thomas and Mary Marshall to John Ariss, 26 August 1765; Charles E. Brownell, Calder Loth, William M. S. Rasmussen and Richard Guy Wilson, *The Making of Virginia Architecture* (Charlottesville: The University Press of Virginia, 1992), 144, 188; T. Triplett Russell and John K. Gott, *An Historical Vignette of Oak Hill, Fauquier County Home of John Marshall, Chief Justice of the United States and Native Son of Fauquier County* (Westminster, Maryland: Willow Bend Books, 2000), 13.

<sup>liv</sup>Willie Graham, "Genteel Punches and Drunken Balls: The Creation of a Recognizable Tavern in the Early Chesapeake," vol. 27, *The Bulletin of the Northumberland County Historical Society* (1990), 6.; Oliver W. Holmes and Peter T. Rohrbach, *Stagecoach East: Stagecoach Days in the East from the Colonial Period to the Civil War* (Washington, D. C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1983), 157-158; David K. Hazzard and David H. Dutton, "Archaeological Survey of Rice's Hotel/Hughlett's Tavern (44NB197) Heathsville, Northumberland County, Virginia," Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia, August 1994, 13-14; Minnie Lee McGehee, "A Revolutionary Tavern," 8: 1, *Louisa County Historical Magazine* (Summer 1976) : 11; Rice 102.

<sup>lv</sup>Baker, 49-52.

<sup>lvi</sup>"To be SOLD at Captain Robert Ashby's in Fauquier county on Wednesday the 25<sup>th</sup> of November," *The Virginia Gazette*, 17 September 1767; Donald Jackson and Dorothy Twohig, eds., *The Diaries of George Washington*, vol. II, 1766-70 (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1976), 124-125; Augusta County Court of Chancery Causes Box 1810-166 to 1810-174. 1810-172 *Ashby vs. Ashby* restyled to *Ashby, Alexander vs. Fr, Henry and others*. This suit contains a note of Winchester tavern keeper Edward McGuin stating that Henry Fry Junior appeared before him as justice of the peace and made oath that a notice to Alexander Ashby was delivered to him at a tavern in Fauquier County but the tavern keeper's name was not recalled.

<sup>lvii</sup>Fauquier County Deed Book 3, page 407, George Washington, Esq. to John Dyer, farmer, 227 acres partly in Loudoun and Fauquier counties, 17 March 1769; FC Deed Book 3, page 413, George Washington, Esq. to George Russell, farmer, 106 acres partly in Loudoun and Fauquier counties, 17 March 1769; FC Deed Book 3, page 419, George Washington, Esq. to James Wood, Lot 6 of 100 acres, 17 March 1769; FC Deed Book 3, page 424, George Washington, Esq. to Deel Clyman of Fairfax County, Lot 9 of 160 acres, 17 March 1769; FC Deed Book 3, page 430, George Washington, Esq. to Israel Morris, farmer, Lot 3 of 100 acres, 17 March 1769; FC Deed Book 3, page 436, George Washington, Esq. to Thomas Lloyd, Lot 17 of 100 acres, 17 March 1769; FC Deed Book 3, page 441, George Washington, Esq. to Robert Thompson, Lot 8 of 150 acres, 17 March 1769; FC Deed Book 3, page 447, George Washington, Esq. to William Donaldson, Lot 15 of 100 acres, 17 March 1769; FC Deed Book 3, page 454, George Washington, Esq. to William Wood of Loudoun, farmer, Lots 11-12 of 100 acres in Loudoun and Fauquier counties, 17 March 1769; FC Deed Book 3, page 460, George Washington, Esq. to John Glascock, farmer, Lot 16 of 100 acres, 17 March 1769.

<sup>lviii</sup>Donald Jackson and Dorothy Twohig, eds., *The Diaries of George Washington*, vol. III. 1771-75; 1780-81 (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1978), found online in the George Washington Papers at the Library of Congress <http://memory.loc.gov>, images 128, 25 June 2004.

<sup>lix</sup>Jackson and Twohig, eds., *The Diaries of George Washington*, vol. III, online Library of Congress, image 257, 25 June 2004.

<sup>lx</sup>Historian/author Norman L. Baker of Delaplane, telephone interview by author, 20 July 2004.

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<sup>lxi</sup>To be SOLD . . . *The Virginia Gazette*, 17 September 1767; Advertisements,” *The Virginia Gazette*, 16 April 1772. J. Johnson informs that a fifteen-year-old indentured servant named William Johnson arrived on the Fustitia from London in 1768 without knowledge of where he is to live and requests that anyone who has intelligence regarding him should leave it at Captain Robert Ashby’s, near Goose Creek, Fauquier County, Virginia; “FOR SALE, a tract of well-timbered and watered land in Fauquier County, near Mr. Robert Ashby’s tavern . . .,” 5 January 1778, Reginald Graham, *The Virginia Gazette*, 23 January 1778.

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<sup>lxii</sup>Fauquier County Clerk’s Loose Papers, Road Series, Box 1, 1790-010 Petition for Public Road from Snicker’s Gap to Gibson’s Mill to Richard Evan’s Mill and from thence to the road by Robert Ashby’s, 1790; Fauquier County Clerk’s Loose Papers, Road Series, Box 1, 1788-005 Petition for Public Road from the Manassas Gap Road near Rob’t. Ashby’s to Rector Town, 1788; Fauquier County Clerk’s Loose Papers, Road Series, Box 1, 1790-001 Road Viewer’s Report through the lands of General Washington near Rector’s Old Mill to Daniel Brown’s Still house where it intersects the road that leads from Robert Ashby’s to Rector Town, 13 September 1790.

<sup>lxiii</sup>Bruce Carney, “Early Taverns, Inns and Ordinaries of Goochland County,” *Goochland County Historical Society Magazine* 30 (1998): 23.

<sup>lxiv</sup>Baker, 15-19, 27; Baker, 20 July 2004.

<sup>lxv</sup>Baker, 20 July 2004. Mr. Baker recently discovered in Fauquier County Clerk’s Loose Papers Ordinaries Box 1, 1759-001 to 1808-002, a 28 March 1761 ordinary bond (1761-008) for David Barton who obtained a lease from Thomas Turner on 26 May 1756. However, Barton’s house stood on his 150-acre Leeds Manor leased lot of 150 acres; Fauquier County Deed Book 1, page 47, Thomas Lord Fairfax to David Barton lease of 150 acres in Prince William County, part of the Manor of Leeds in the line of Col. James Ball on the north side of Carter’s Run, 24 September 1759, recorded 27 September 1759; Fauquier County Deed Book 4, page 71, Elias Edmonds and wife Betty to Bryan Bruin, 400 acres formerly Capt. James Ball’s Horsepen Tract excepting the dwelling house of David Barton, 3 October 1770. This Horsepen Tract is north of Barton’s land, and Edmonds is suggesting that he has built his house on his property, but platting and the road location reveals no encroachment and the more likely scenario of Edmonds mistakenly exceeding his own boundary. The Leeds Manor and Horsepen lines correctly align north of the Shenandoah Road; John K. Gott, *High in Old Virginia’s Piedmont: A History of Marshall (formerly Salem), Fauquier County, Virginia* (Marshall, Virginia: Marshall National Bank & Trust Company, 1987), 3, 5-6.

<sup>lxvi</sup>McClane, 7:14; Foster, Mrs. Carter, “Paris Inn or Ashby’s Tavern,” Works Progress Administration, Virginia Historical Inventory, Richmond: Library of Virginia; Fauquier County Bicentennial Committee, *Fauquier County, Virginia 1759-1959* (Warrenton, Virginia: Virginia Publishing, Incorporated, 1959), 283-84; William Emmett Reese, *The Settle-Suttle Family* (Palm Beach, Florida: Fannie Lu Camp Fisher, ca. 1974), 335.

<sup>lxvii</sup>Maral Kalbian, “Final Report for Survey Update of Historic Properties in Fauquier County, Virginia,” prepared for the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and Fauquier County Department of Community Development, December 2000-March 2002, 117; Frances B. Foster, “The Old Inn,” Works Progress Administration, Virginia Historical Inventory, Richmond: Library of Virginia; Baker, 183; Fauquier County Bicentennial Committee, 248-49; Clara S. McCarty, *The Foothills of the Blue Ridge in Fauquier County, Virginia* (Warrenton, Virginia: *The Fauquier Democrat*, 1974), 74-75.

<sup>lxviii</sup>Abraham Bradley, Jr., “Map of the United States,” 4<sup>th</sup> ed., 1804; 1812. David Rumsey Map Collection <www.davidrumsey.com> Bradley indicated post roads, stagecoach routes, counties, towns, cities, courthouses, watercourses and mountains.

<sup>lxix</sup>William Waller Hening, ed., “An act for procuring a supply of provisions and other necessities for the use of the army,” *The Statutes at Large*, vol. 10: 233-37 (Richmond, Virginia: Franklin Press, 1822).

<sup>lxx</sup>Ibid., 235.

<sup>lxxi</sup>Carl R. Lounsbury, *An Illustrated Glossary of Early Southern Architecture & Landscape* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1994), 355.

<sup>lxxii</sup>William Waller Hening, ed., “An act for laying a tax, payable in certain enumerated commodities,” *The Statutes at Large*, vol. 10: 79-81 (Richmond, Virginia: Franklin Press, 1822).

<sup>lxxiii</sup>Joan W. Peters, *Military Records, Patriotic Service, & Public Service Claims From The Fauquier County Virginia Court Minute Books 1759-1784* (Westminster, Maryland: Willow Bend Books, 1999), 67, 107; John K. Gott, *Fauquier County Virginia: Court Records 1776-1782* (Bowie, Maryland: Heritage Books, Inc. CD “Heritage Books Archives Fauquier County, Virginia,” 1993), 122.

<sup>lxxiv</sup>Peters, *Patriotic*, 89; William Waller Hening, ed., “An act for auditing certain public claims,” *The Statutes at Large*, vol. 11: 79 (Richmond,

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Virginia: Franklin Press, 1822).

<sup>lxxxv</sup>Peters, *Patriotic*, 115.

<sup>lxxxvi</sup>Hening, vol. 10: 189.

<sup>lxxxvii</sup>Fauquier County Will Book 2, page 216, Last Will and Testament of Robert Ashby, dated 2 June 1790, recorded 27 February 1792.

<sup>lxxxviii</sup>Fauquier County Deed Book 7, page 514, Marriage Contract between Robert Ashby of Fauquier and Catherine Combs of Fauquier, 20 May 1783; Reese, 94; Baker 79-80.

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<sup>lxxxix</sup>Fauquier County Deed Book 10, page 216, Martin Ashby and wife Miriam of Frederick County to Robert Ashby of Fauquier County, 100 acres crossing the Manassas Run Gap Road in the line of Bertrand Ewell and the corner of Ball, being part of 1,176 acres granted to Charles Burges by patent from the Proprietor of the Northern Neck, 7 September 1789, recorded 22 February 1790.

<sup>lxxx</sup>Fauquier County Court Minute Book 1781-1784, page 82, *The Commonwealth vs. Enoch Ashby*, Presentment of Enoch Ashby to the court for retailing spirituous liquors contrary to law, November 1782.

<sup>lxxxi</sup>Virginia State Census, 1785-010.

<sup>lxxxii</sup>Robert Ashby's will, recorded 27 February 1792.

<sup>lxxxiii</sup>Depositions of George Ash and William Ash dated 1 July 1809 in Augusta County Chancery 1810-172 *Ashby, Alexander vs. Fry, Henry and others*, previously styled *Ashby vs. Ashby*, Old File Number O. S. 152; N. S. 53.

<sup>lxxxiv</sup>*Ibid.*, Bill of Complaint of Alexander Ashby, 1 March 1808.

<sup>lxxxv</sup>Fauquier County Will Book 2, page 223, Inventory of Robert Ashby, deceased, 23 April 1792; Rice, 85; Gregory J. Brown, Thomas F. Higgins III, David F. Muraca, S. Kathleen Pepper and Roni H. Polk, "Archaeological Investigations of the Shields Tavern Site, Williamsburg, Virginia," Department of Archaeological Research, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Williamsburg, Virginia, April 1990, 20.

<sup>lxxxvi</sup>Fauquier County Clerk's Loose Papers, Land Disputes, Box 17, 1806-015 Enoch Ashby of Fauquier County to Alexander Ashby of Culpeper County, 121-½ acres known as "Ashby's Old Tavern," also a 2-¼-acre lot of land being before the house door on the east side of the road that Robert Ashby purchased of Francis Ash, 9 November 1806. No deed could be found among the court records for the 2-¼ acres from Francis Ash; Fauquier County Deed Book 17, page 1, Alexander Ashby and wife Nancy of Culpeper County to Edward Shacklett of Fauquier County, 121-½ acres known as "Ashby's Old Tavern," 14 February 1807, recorded 27 July 1807.

<sup>lxxxvii</sup>Fauquier County Deed Book 12, page 30, John Marshall of Richmond to Edward Shacklett of Fauquier, three-lives lease of a part of Oak Hill, 25 July 1793, recorded 23 September 1793.

<sup>lxxxviii</sup>Gott Collection, Shacklett Papers, Thomas G. Rector, "Enoch Rector--His Fore-fathers and Descendants," n. d., 21-23; Turner Washington Shacklett, "The Shacklett Family in the State of Virginia," n. d., 3-5, 17, ca. 1925, Fauquier Heritage Society, Marshall, Virginia; Tombstone of Edward Shacklett, Cool Springs Methodist Church, Delaplane, Virginia; Peters, *Military Records, Certificates*, 1784-1840, 139.

<sup>lxxxix</sup>Rector, 22-23; *History of Allegheny County Pennsylvania: including its early settlement and progress to the present time; a description of its historic and interesting localities; its cities, towns and villages, religious, educational, social and military history, mining, manufacturing and commercial interests, improvements, resources, statistics, etc., also biographies of many of its representative citizens* (Chicago, Illinois: A. Warner & Company, 1889), 1105; U. S. Census, Fauquier County, Virginia Population Schedule, 1810.

<sup>xc</sup>David K. Hazzard and David H. Dutton, "Archaeological Survey of Rice's Hotel/Hughlett's Tavern (44NB197) Heathsville, Northumberland County, Virginia," Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia, August 1994, 17; Yoder, Paton. "Tavern Regulation in Virginia: Rationale and Reality," *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, 87 : 266-267 (1979).

<sup>xci</sup>Graham, *Bulletin* 6-7; Mackay, 7-8.

<sup>xcii</sup>Lounsbury, 285-286.

<sup>xciii</sup>Graham, 7.

<sup>xciv</sup>*Ibid.*; Rice, 106.

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<sup>xcv</sup>Fauquier County Will Book 10, page 23, Last Will and Testament of Edward Shacklett, Sr., 25 February 1826, proved 25 September 1826; Fauquier County Clerk's Loose Papers, Ordinaries, Box 3, 1827-001, Elizabeth Shacklett License to keep house of private entertainment, 29 May 1827; Box 4, 1829-001, 1 May 1829; 1830-001, 1 May 1830; 1831-002, 23 August 1831; 1833-005, 22 July 1833; 1834-001, 25 June 1834; 1836-001, 26 July 1836; 1837-001, 25 July 1837; 1838-001, 24 July 1838; 1839-001, 25 June 1839; 1844-001, 19 July 1844; 1845-001, 26 June 1845; 1846-001, 22 June 1846; 1847-001, 29 June 1847; 1850-001, 26 August 1850; Fauquier County Court Minute Book 1834, 26 June 1834; 1835, 28 July 1835; 1840, 24 June 1840; 1842, 26 July 1842; 1843, 26 August 1843; 1844, 30 August 1844; 1845, 30 July 1845; 1846, 22 June 1846; 1847, 29 June 1847; 1850, 27 November 1850; 1851-1853, 5 August 1851.

<sup>xcvi</sup>McCain, Diana Ross, "Women Tavern Keepers," vol. 21: 3, *Early American Life* (June 1990) : 30-31.

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<sup>xcvii</sup>Shacklett, The Shacklett Family, 11; *History of Allegheny County . . .*, a-501; George H. Thurston, *Pittsburgh as it is: or, facts and figures, exhibiting the past and present of Pittsburgh; its advantages, resources, manufacturers and commerce* (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania: W. S. Haven, 1857), 169-173; Isaac Harris, *Harris' Business Directory of Pittsburgh & Allegheny* (Pittsburgh: Pennsylvania: A. A. Anderson, ca. 1844), 111; *Woodward & Rowland's Pittsburgh Directory for 1852: containing the names of the inhabitants of Pittsburgh and Allegheny* (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania: W. S. Haven, 1852).

<sup>xcviii</sup>William Clark, comp., *History of Hampton Battery F, independent Pennsylvania Light Artillery organized at Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, mustered out in Pittsburg, June 26, 1865* (Akron, Ohio: Pittsburgh, The Warner Company, ca. 1909), 129-131; Robert B. Hampton's military record in Historical Data Systems, comp., *Military Records of Individual Civil War Soldiers* (Provo, Utah: Ancestry.com, 1999), n. p.

<sup>xcix</sup>Shacklett, The Shacklett Family," 5.

<sup>c</sup>Graham, 8.

<sup>ci</sup>John M Goldsborough, "Plan and Profile of the Manassas Gap Railroad, 1851," Library of Virginia, Board of Public Works Maps, Richmond, Virginia.

<sup>cii</sup>Crayon, 266-267; Norman L. Baker, "Yew Hill George Washington did indeed sleep here," *The Piedmont Virginian*, 2 January 1975.

<sup>ciii</sup>Jeremy Francis Gilmer Collection, "Map of Fauquier, 1863," Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, Virginia.

<sup>civ</sup>John S. Mosby, *Stuart's Cavalry in the Gettysburg Campaign* (New York: Moffat, Yard & Company, 1908), 60.

<sup>cv</sup>Fielding Lewis Marshall, *Recollections and Reflections of Fielding Lewis Marshall, A Virginia Gentleman of the Old School*, comp. Maria Newton Marshall (Orange? Virginia, 1911), 81-82; Emily G. Ramey and John K. Gott, *The Years of Anguish Fauquier County, Virginia 1861-1865* (Warrenton, Virginia: The Fauquier County Civil War Centennial Committee and the Board of Supervisors, County of Fauquier, Virginia, 1965), 90; Baker, *Valley*, 144.

<sup>cvi</sup>Baker, *Valley*, 160; Baker, 11 August 2004; Charles Wells Russell, ed., *The Memoirs of Colonel John S. Mosby* (Boston, Massachusetts: Little, Brown and Company, 1917), 333-34; Baird, *Edmonds' Journal*, 209; Marshall, *Recollections*, 126.

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<sup>cxviii</sup>Harold B. Gill, Jr., “Taking The Cure Colonial Spas, Springs, Baths and Fountains of Health,” *Colonial Williamsburg* 24 (Summer 2002) : 74-76.

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<sup>cxxii</sup>Notes of Mrs. Louise Ashby Leachman Via provided to Donald Ashby and compiled by him, 10 October 2003; Photographs taken at Yew Hill by the John T. Ashby family in Donald Ashby Collection, South Riding Virginia. Ms. Via and Elinor Burchard provided original images for Mr. Ashby to reproduce which has been a most beneficial sharing of documentation for this project.

<sup>cxxiii</sup>Fauquier County Will Book 50, page 443, Last Will and Testament of John T. Ashby, Sr., 1 May 1920, recorded 2 January 1929; Fauquier County Deed Book 140, page 207, John T. Ashby and wife Miriam G., Sally J. Ashby, Louise L. and H. A. Via and Thomas R. Leachman of Albemarle County to the Commonwealth of Virginia, 6.81 acres for Route 55, Highway Project No. 725-C, 14 August 1934, recorded 28 August 1934; Fauquier County Deed Book 142, page 197, John T. Ashby and wife Miriam G. and Sally J. Ashby all of Albemarle County to R. C. Iden and wife Lucy J. of Fauquier County, “Yew Hill” with 141 acres, 1 Rood and 37 square perches, 9 December 1935, recorded 17 December 1935; Fauquier County Deed Book 163, page 330, R. C. Iden and wife Lucy J. to Virginia Electric and Power Company, 4 September 1947, 4 November 1947; Fauquier County Deed Book 203, page 565, R. C. Iden, widower of Fauquier to Clara S. McCarty, “Yew Hill” farm with 100 acres, 11 August 1958, recorded 14 November 1958; Fauquier County Deed Book 222, page 594, Clara S. McCarty, widow, to the Commonwealth of Virginia, 2.081 acres and 2.031 acres, 18 July 1963, recorded 1 October 1963.

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**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA** (continued)

UTM References (continued 5<sup>th</sup> through 10th)

| Zone   | Easting | Northing | Zone    | Easting | Northing |
|--------|---------|----------|---------|---------|----------|
| 5 – 18 | 246690  | 4310350  | 6 – 18  | 246990  | 4310480  |
| 7 – 18 | 247080  | 4310080  | 8 – 18  | 246810  | 4310090  |
| 9 – 18 | 246780  | 4310110  | 10 – 18 | 246120  | 4309660  |

Boundary Description:

The selected National Register property boundary encompasses the defined 97.92 acres of land owned by Allen J. Richards and Jennifer S. Richards, PIN 6041-63-9132, as shown outlined in red and labeled “1” on the attached Fauquier County GIS map dated April 2004. This nominated property is bordered on the south and southwest by John Marshall Highway (State Route 55) with the Winchester Road (State Route 17) cutting through the parcel on the east, leaving 17.04 acres on the east side of the road and the greater 83.99-acre majority containing the buildings on the west. The eastern boundary is bordered by landowner Vernoy Franklin, Trustee. The northern boundary is bordered by landowners Dorothy Rose, Todd Heyns, Allen J. Richards and Sandra Costin, Trustee.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated Yew Hill boundary surrounds all of the identified historic resources that contribute to the period of significance of the property. The perimeter encompasses the historic 50-acre parcel lying on both sides of the Winchester Road that Robert Ashby acquired in 1759, as well as most of his son Nimrod's 100 acres crossing the Manassas Gap Road to the west and added by him thirty years later. The nominated 97.92-acre tract is the greater portion of the 121-½-acre property “known by the name of Ashby's Old Tavern” which Edward Shacklett bought from Robert Ashby's descendants in 1807 when the dwelling came to be known as Shacklett's Tavern. Shacklett's purchase also spread east beyond the Winchester Road where the current owner has found some blackened hand-made bricks near the road frontage.

Note: The John Marshall Highway (State Route 55) was formerly the Manassas Gap Road.

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**PHOTOGRAPHS** Negative strips were numbered 20655 and placed in acid-free archival sleeves with a negative list for VDHR Richmond archives. DATE of all images – May 2004.

1. VIEW OF: Dwelling, Meat House & Dairy  
East front and south side elevs. facing NW  
Neg. No. 20655-5  
Photo 1 of 18
2. VIEW OF: Dwelling – Full east front elev. with stone  
top step from former Winchester Road location facing W.  
Neg. No. 20655-6  
Photo 2 of 18
3. VIEW OF: Dwelling – North side elevation, facing south.  
Neg. No. 20655-8  
Photo 3 of 18
4. VIEW OF: Dwelling – West rear elevation, SW corner to  
northwest, facing northeast.  
Neg. No. 20655-10  
Photo 4 of 18
5. VIEW OF: Dwelling – South side elevation, facing north  
with “near” kitchen clearly shown.  
Neg. No. 20655-11  
Photo 5 of 18
6. VIEW OF: East front dooryard, former Winchester Road  
bed and stone springhouse ruin, facing northeast.  
Neg. No. 20655-12  
Photo 6 of 18
7. VIEW OF: Dwelling – Original 9/9 window north of entrance  
on east front, facing southwest.  
Neg. No. 20655-13  
Photo 7 of 18
8. VIEW OF: Dwelling – East front framing, openings, south to  
north view to northwest. See the former window frame cut  
into by the insertion of a second door.  
Neg. No. 20655-14  
Photo 8 of 18
9. VIEW OF: Dwelling – East front framing, openings, north to  
south view to southwest.  
Neg. No. 20655-15  
Photo 9 of 18
10. VIEW OF: Dwelling – Exterior/Interior facing north through  
an opening beside the south service entrance where original  
weatherboard remains in this corner and into the south chamber.  
The exposed framing on the west interior partition wall has an  
original door frame as is the one on facing north wall.  
Neg. No. 20655-18  
Photo 10 of 18
11. VIEW OF: Dwelling – Interior facing west to the  
former southwest window opening changed into a  
door. This window was relocated in the 20<sup>th</sup>-century  
south-left in the view. The fireplace, formerly two  
corner fireplaces, is shown on the south-left, and the  
location of the former partition between the  
formerly divided south chamber can be seen in the  
floor opposite the fireplace.  
Neg. No. 20655-20  
Photo 11 of 18
12. VIEW OF: Dwelling - Interior in north hall facing NW  
to the corner fireplace and original door to back  
chamber where a second corner fireplace remains.  
The mantelpiece dates to circa 1808.  
Neg. No. 20655-21  
Photo 12 of 18
13. VIEW OF: Dwelling– Interior facing northeast to  
box-bleat back stair construction.  
Neg. No. 20655-2  
Photo 13 of 18
14. VIEW OF: Dwelling – Interior facing west through  
the back hall door to corner stair with tall newel and  
the flat-paneled side of the rear door.  
Neg. No. 20655-3  
Photo 14 of 18
15. VIEW OF: Meat House & Dairy – West elevation &  
south elevation of the former, facing NE.  
Neg. No. 20655-29  
Photo 15 of 18
16. VIEW OF: Barn yard setting - West rear elev. of  
late-18<sup>th</sup>-century barn, meat house, dairy, frame  
tenant house & Yew Hill House, S elev., facing NE.  
Neg. No. 20655-30  
Photo 16 of 18
17. VIEW OF: Barn – Interior 2<sup>nd</sup> floor facing NW  
to mill-sawn studs & hewn corner post.  
Neg. No. 20655-33  
Photo 17 of 18
18. VIEW OF: Barn – E front & N side elevs. to SW  
Neg. No. 20655-34  
Photo 18 of 18